MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 MARCH 1981

Syria

Editorial on Jordan--According to Damascus radio, a TISHRIN editorial said that it is a "proven historical fact" that Jordan is an "artificial entity" created by British imperialism. The land on which it was established, the editorial continued, is the "land of Syria," and Jordan is a "natural part" of Syria. Because the Jordanian regime is a product of imperialism, TISHRIN said, it is "illegitimate, undemocratic and un-Arab."

Iraqi Delegation--QNA reported from Damascus that an Iraqi Oil Ministry delegation is currently visiting Syria on a mission to negotiate the resumption of pumping of Iraqi oil to the Baniyas refinery on the Syrian coast.

Lebanon

Ba'labakk Calm--Following several days of clashes between rival factions in Ba'labakk, Beirut radio reported that the city was calm after armored units of the Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) took control of the city center. An ADF statement broadcast by Beirut radio said that each of the parties has been asked to keep open only one office in the city and that the ADF will use force to close unauthorized offices.

Callaghan Statement, Israeli Reaction--Gen William Callaghan, commander of UNIFIL, told journalists in Al-Qantarah that the UNIFIL command will continue its efforts to "impose the sovereignty" of the Lebanese authorities over southern Lebanon, Beirut radio reported. According to Jerusalem radio, the IDF spokesman expressed "amazement" at Callaghan's statement, stressing that the IDF will not abandon the Christian militia forces of Maj Sa'd Haddad.

Egypt

Cairo radio reported that Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said in Copenhagen that Egypt "welcomes" the Soviet Union's proposal for an international conference on the Middle East provided such a conference does not "infringe" on the Camp David agreements and provided it produces positive results.

Kuwait

According to the newspaper AL-QABAS, a senior Kuwaiti official has denied reports that Kuwait plans to sell the Soviet Union large quantities of oil. AL-QABAS said the denial was prompted by a report in the London newspaper FINANCIAL TIMES that the Soviet Union plans to buy oil from Kuwait and resell it to Turkey.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Hammadi Interview--Citing an interview in the Saudi newspaper AR-RIYADH, Riyadh television reported that Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi said that Iraq has received no Soviet military support in its war with Iran.

Military Situation--Tehran radio reported that after a 3-day battle, Iranian forces captured the highest peak overlooking Nowdesheh and now control the region. It also reported exchanges of artillery and mortar fire in the Marivan, Gilan-e Gharb, Susangerd and Karkheh Kur regions, while an Iraqi General Command Communique, carried by INA, said that Iraqi forces pounded Abadan with artillery and mortar fire. KUNA, citing the newspaper AL-ANBA', reported that two Iranian aircraft violated Kuwait's airspace while raiding southern Iraq on 25 March.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KUWAITI FOREIGN MINISTER ADDRESSES ARAB LEAGUE

LD261503 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 24 Mar 81 p 10

["Text" of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad speech at the opening of the seventh session of the Arab League Council on 22 March in Tunis]

[Excerpt] Brothers, the convening of this session of the Arab League Council comes at a time when the Arab nation is facing extremely grave and important situations both inside and outside the Arab arena affecting the Arab nation's vital interests relating to its future and just causes.

The most important thing that we must confront at this critical stage is the exacerbation of the Zionist danger in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories and the enemy's expansionist plans; the enemy has gone a long way in his plans to annex land, evict its legitimate owners and build Zionist settlements there and also in his criminal coercive actions against the struggling Palestinian people.

The situation which the enemy is imposing on southern Lebanon as a result of his continuing aggression and destruction of towns, villages and camps and his occupation of vital and strategic positions is indisputably extremely serious and threatens an explosion in the area at any time, something which Israel is seeking by creating the conditions which we and the area around us are living under and experiencing.

Brothers, the strength of the Arab League lies in Arab solidarity and in this nation's ability to face the dangers that threaten collective Arab action as well as in removing differences and mending rifts. As we meet today under a clouded sky we hope that the Arab will be capable of overcoming these difficulties.

I would like to point out here that good Arab efforts have recently borne fruit and resulted in a positive Arab action symbolizing effective Arab solidarity--the establishment of the Council of Cooperation of the Gulf Arab states.

The establishment of this council was a real victory and support for the Arab League's principles and charter. It is also evidence of the belief of the countries of the area in the need to consolidate cooperation between them in the various fields, to serve their peoples' interest and to give expression to their conviction that the preservation of security and stability in the area is solely the responsibility of its countries without foreign interference and away from all forms of international conflict.

Brothers, the agreement on a program of joint Arab action to confront the Zionist enemy at the coming stage which was reached at the 11th summit, the ratification of the charter of joint Arab economic action and the unified agreement for the investment of Arab funds in the Arab countries, and the joint Arab development contract--all these achievements represent pioneering steps to serve the objectives of the Arab struggle through Arab coordination that is effective in all fields and through the adoption of a unified stand toward the various world powers.

We are called upon to put this program of joint action into actual effect in order to answer the challenges we are facing and I hope that our efforts at this session, thanks to the cooperation of all of us, will be fully successful in the interest of the well-being, progress and invicibility of our nation.

Peace and God's blessings be upon you.

OMANI NOTE TO ARAB LEAGUE CITES BORDER VIOLATIONS

LD251608 Muscat Domestic in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The Sultanate of Oman has presented a note to the Arab League in which it specified repeated acts of aggression carried out by forces of southern Yemen inside Omani territories.

On 27 and 28 November a geological survey team of southern Yemen carried out a survey inside the sultanate's border, 2-3 km north of (As-Sahar).

On 17 February 1981, eight vehicles of the forces of southern Yemen crossed the Omani border and opened fire on Omani forces which had approached to investigate.

On 21 February 1981, two vehicles from southern Yemen crossed the border in the same area.

On 26 February 1981, at 0830 an observation post of the ground forces identified vehicles of the forces of southern Yemen heading northeast of (Ihan) town, inside the border of the sultanate. Two vehicles also took up position inside the border of southern Yemen. At 0850 on the same day, four vehicles opened fire with a machinegun [word indistinct] on one of our aircraft carrying out reconnaissance tasks inside the Omani border.

At 0930 on the same day four (?Toyota) vehicles, armed with a machinegun, penetrated to a distance of 11 km toward the Omani observation post, whose troops retreated. The southern Yemen forces broke up the network of [word indistinct] of the observation area. They then withdrew westward inside the southern Yemen border.

On 27 February 1981, two vehicles of southern Yemen crossed our border at the same place and then withdrew westward.

These acts of aggression were accompanied by the massing of forces of southern Yemen on the sultanate's border.

In spite of all these acts of aggression, the Omani forces exercised self-control and avoided confrontation with the forces of southern Yemen to avert aggravation of the situation.

On Friday, 27 February, the Omani Foreign Ministry summoned ambassadors of states of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf in Muscat and informed them of these acts of aggression by southern Yemen, asking them to communicate this to their governments.

The Omani note stressed that the sultanate has never been the initiator of aggression against southern Yemen, rather it exercised self-control toward the continued and repeated acts of aggression by the successive regimes in Aden and that what has been said in the deceptions that the ruling regime in Aden is circulating is nothing but an attempt to cover up the aggressive acts that were and are being carried out by the Aden forces against Oman, with the massive presence of the Soviet, East German and Cuban forces as their support and prop.

'ARAFAT HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN BANGLADESH

JN261743 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and his host Ziaur Rahman attended the military parade in Dacca this morning marking the 10th anniversary of the independence of Bangladesh.

The celebrations were also attended by a number of state leaders and delegations participating in the Bangladesh national celebrations, including Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure.

Brother Abu 'Ammar held a press conference at noon today. He spoke about Arab and international issues. He said that Israel is preparing to launch a large-scale attack against southern Lebanon. As for the European initiative, Brother Abu 'Ammar asked whether this initiative will see light.

He added that he wishes to meet with British Foreign Minister Lord Carrington in May to hold talks with him on the Palestinian issues. This will take place when Lord Carrington becomes the head of the EEC Ministerial Council. He also referred to the dead end reached by the Camp David agreements.

In his press conference Brother Abu 'Ammar called on Iran and Iraq to end the conflict between them. He said that he, Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure and Bangladesh President Ziaur Rahman will leave for Jidda, Saudi Arabia, tomorrow to resume the task of the good offices committee which stemmed from the third Islamic summit.

DENMARK 'WELCOMES' PLO INFORMATION OFFICE

JN261939 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1845 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] The Danish foreign minister has reiterated that the Middle East situation cannot be stabilized without the solution of the Palestinian issue. The Danish minister said his country welcomes the immediate establishment of a PLO information office in Copenhagen if PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat wishes to do so.

The Danish foreign minister said that his country has turned down the Egyptian regime's foreign minister's request on participation in the emergency forces in Sinai.

FATAH OFFICIAL CONDEMNS JORDAN, U.S.; PRAISES USSR

JN262024 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus--A Palestinian official has stressed that the Hashemite regime in Jordan is a constant adversary of the Palestinian Arab people and their cause. He said: We cannot forget this fact for a moment because it is this regime which played a continuous role in serving Zionism and imperialism and it was the tool of suppressing our people's struggle and striking at our revolution. We are in permanent struggle against it, he added.

'Uthman Abu Gharbiyah, Fatah revolutionary council member, pointed out that the United States--primary foe of peoples--is the source of plotting and stands behind all plots against the Arab human being and his principal issue of Palestine.

Abu Gharbiyah praised the Soviet Union's firm stands toward the Arab issues, particularly that of Palestine and the Arab people's struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL TO CONVENE 11 APR

JN261432 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus, 26 Mar (SANA)--Khalid al-Fahum, Palestine National Council speaker, has declared that an invitation has been extended to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to open the Palestine National Council's 15th session at the Damascus University auditorium on 11 April.

In a statement published by the newspaper AL-BA'TH here today, Al-Fahum said that the council will listen to the political report submitted by the PLO Political Department and to the financial report submitted by the Palestinian national fund. The members will also hold a general discussion of the political situation, the financial position and all the issues relating to the Palestinian struggle and the PLO on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels.

Al-Fahum stressed that amending the Palestinian national charter is absolutely out of the question. He added that he did not feel that any member of the Palestine National Council or any of the resistance factions desired the amending of the charter. On the contrary, he said, there is a determination to adhere to our charter, which unites our forces and pools our ranks.

He stressed that the council will do its best to clarify the Arab atmosphere in order to tighten the isolation of As-Sadat and to support the Arab people in Egypt so as to forestall the expansion of the area of capitulation and treason in the Arab world by dragging in one or more Arab regimes with the As-Sadat regime.

ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET IN IRAQ 1-6 JUN

JN261516 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA)--Iraq has officially invited the Islamic countries to attend the meetings of the 12th session of the Islamic countries foreign ministers conference slated to be held in Baghdad from 1 to 6 June.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry today summoned the Islamic countries ambassadors in Baghdad and conveyed to them Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi's invitation to the Islamic countries' foreign ministers.

A preparatory meeting of the top Islamic officials on 30 and 31 May will precede the foreign ministers meetings.

The foreign ministers session was decided upon by the Islamic Conference summit which was held in At-Ta'if on 25 January. Iraq had proposed the convocation of the above-mentioned session during the Islamic countries' ministers 11th conference which was held in Islamabad in 1980. Iraq's invitation was approved by the Islamabad conference and the Islamic summit.

KUWAIT

OFFICIAL DENIES REPORT OF OIL DEAL WITH USSR

GF270915 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 27 Mar 81 p 1

[Muhammad ash-Shiti dispatch]

[Excerpt] A senior official has denied reports that Kuwait will supply the Soviet Union with large quantities of oil. He said in a statement to AL-QABAS: There have been no contacts between Kuwaiti and Soviet officials on Kuwaiti oil deals with the Soviet Union.

He added: We have not held any talks on this matter with the Soviet Union, and they did not contact us on this matter.

The official said Kuwait will begin talks soon with the companies which Kuwait usually supplies with oil, the most important of which are BP, Shell and Gulf.

He asserted that Kuwait has not held any talks with any party other than its traditional oil customers. He expressed surprise at such reports which he described as unrealistic.

Asked whether Kuwait is prepared to supply the Soviet Union with oil if the Soviet Union should ask for it, the official said: We cannot speculate on what may happen in the future.

News agencies reported yesterday that Western petroleum circles in London were studying with interest a press report that the Soviet Union intends to buy oil from Kuwait and resell it to Turkey. The report was published by the London FINANCIAL TIMES.

KUWAIT RULES OUT NEED FOR U.S. RDF IN REGION

LD231512 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1324 GMT 23 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Mar (KUNA)--Kuwait reiterated today that there is no need for the American Rapid Deployment Force [RDF] in the Gulf and warned against the negative effects of the U.S. policies to the region. Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Mr Rashid ar-Rashid told U.S. Ambassador Mr Francois Dickman, who was accompanied by a delegation of students from the American national defense institute consisting of 17 students, that the region has no need for such forces from whatever quarters. He said that he explained the negative effects of the American policies to the Gulf area, and in particular the question of the establishment of the RDF. He added that he reaffirmed that the region does not need such forces because it wants to keep out of international conflicts and to safeguard its interests and those of the peoples of the world.

He said that the talks also covered Arab-American relations in general, the negative dimensions of American policies to the just Arab issues, and the bad effect of these policies on relations between the two sides.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS--This morning the amir received the credentials of the Yugoslav Ambassador to Kuwait, Mr Paun Serbanovic, and also the credentials of the Mauritius ambassador, Mr Yousouf Abd Razack Mohamed. [Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Mar 81 LD]

NEW FOREIGN MINISTRY APPOINTMENTS--A decree was published in the latest issue of the Kuwaiti official gazette transferring the head of the Kuwaiti diplomatic mission to the SFRY, GDR and People's Hungary, Muhammad 'Abdallah Abbas Abu al-Hasan, to the general office of the Foreign Ministry. Another published decree transfers Kuwait's ambassador to the Yemen Arab Republic, Talat Yaqub al-Ghusayn, to the general office of the Foreign Ministry. [Text] [Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 22 Mar 81 LD]

OMAN

UK DEFENSE MINISTER NOTT ARRIVES FOR MEETINGS

Meeting With Deputy Premier

JN261452 Doha QNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Muscat, 26 Mar (QNA)--Fahar ibn Taymur Al Bu Sa'id, Omani deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, met with British Defense Minister John Nott today.

The meeting was attended by Staff Col Salim 'Abdallah al-Ghazali, under secretary of the Ministry of Defense, and Staff Col Hasan Ihsan, deputy head of the coordination corps in the sultan's armed forces. The two sides discussed bilateral relations and matters of mutual interest.

Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im az-Zawawi, minister of state for foreign affairs, also met with the British minister and discussed with him spheres for bilateral cooperation.

The British minister arrived in Muscat yesterday from Riyadh on a 4-day visit to Oman as part of a tour of the states of the region.

Meeting With Qabus

JN262029 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 2010 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Salalah, 26 Mar (GNA)--Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received in Salalah in the southern region today British Defense Minister John Nott.

The meeting was attended by Fahar ibn Taymur, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs; Col 'Ali Majid al-Ma'mari, Sultan Qabus' military adviser; and (Ivor T. Lucas), British ambassador to Oman.

The British minister returned to Muscat this evening after his meeting with His Majesty Sultan Qabus. Nothing has been disclosed about the meeting.

DAILY TELEGRAPH Report

LD261229 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 26 Mar 81 p 4

[John Bulloch dispatch: "Nott Flies into South Yemen Border Crisis"]

[Text] Muscat--Mr Nott, the minister of defence, flew into a crisis last night when he arrived in Oman after spending two days in Saudi Arabia which may have laid the foundations for new arms sales to the kingdom.

Oman had summoned all Gulf ambassadors to tell them of its crisis with South Yemen, and then sent a formal protest to the Arab League. The sultanate has no relations with the Aden government.

As Mr Nott flew in the Omani Government was sending off a strong protest about the latest South Yemeni incursion along its borders.

According to the Omani protest there have been a series of border raids by South Yemeni troops since the end of last year. The latest was this week when an Omani patrol was fired on.

Omani planes flying along the frontier have also been shot at by South Yemeni forces, apparently inside Omen.

All the incidents have taken place near Makinet Shihan, a military post which bars the main approach to the Omani base at Thamrait. This in turn is the key to the southern Omani capital of Salalah.

Any South Yemeni invasion of Oman would have to travel this way where there is hard going but possible for tanks. According to Omani intelligence reports South Yemen has recently been deploying new units in the border areas and replacing obsolete artillery and missile launchers with up-to-date weapons.

In its note to the Arab League the Omani Government complains of the South Yemeni moves "carried out with the massive support of Soviet, East German and Cuban forces stationed in that country."

Mr Nott, who has unwittingly arrived during the border crisis, is certain to assure his hosts of British support as Britain shares Oman's concern at the situation in South Yemen which has become the main factor of Soviet power in southern Arabia.

One of the minister's aims will be to counter what is seen as growing American influence in an area always regarded as a particularly British sphere of interest.

The indications are that this will not be difficult as the Omanis are concerned at renewed American efforts to secure bases in the area, something that Sultan Qabas has already said he will not permit.

Mr Nott will be dealing more with diplomatic matters than arms sales during his time in Oman but despite denials it appears that he achieved some success in pushing British claims while in Saudi Arabia.

The Saudis have now agreed to receive a British team which will try to sell the Chieftain and Valiant tanks to the national guard, the interior security force.

BRIEFS

OMANI TELECOMMUNICATIONS STATION--Muscat--A telecommunications earth station has been inaugurated in Musandam to provide telecommunications, TV and broadcasting services to the villages of the Wilayat. The station has 12 channels with a provision for increase. The Ro 1 million project was completed within 5 months. [Text] [Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 23 Mar 81 p 2 GF]

UAE

JAPAN, UK, U.S. TOP DUBAI'S 1980 TRADE LIST

GF210350 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 20 Mar 81 p 12

[By Ali Ishrati]

[Text] Three Far Eastern developing countries made substantial increases in their trade with Dubai during 1980 bringing about vital changes in the listing of the emirate's top 20 trading partners.

Dubai's imports during the year rose to Dh 19.5 billion from Dh 16.7 billion in 1979. According to figures available at the Dubai Chamber of Commerce, the Far East's trading advances representing increase up to 70 percent as in the case of Thailand, did not however affect the top five.

Japan, which has enjoyed the number one position for more than 5 years, has in fact improved its share of the Dubai market from 18 percent to 18.4 percent. Japan's export to Dubai were valued at Dh 3.68 billion last year.

There was, however, a drop in real terms in imports from the United Kingdom. Imports in 1980 amounted to DH 2.61 billion compared to Dh 2.69 in 1979. This drop, while it did not distrub Britain's position as Dubai's number two trading partner, brought about a 2.7 percent decline its its share of the market. This percentage drop is equivalent to the average total export of at least seven countries trading with Dubai.

The United States, Dubai's third largest trading partner, marginally increased its share of the market by 0.3 percent, exporting Dh 2.17 billion worth of goods in 1980 as against Dh 1.77 billion in 1879.

Bahrain, which exports mainly petroleum products to Dubai, was number four on the list with exports valued at Dh 1.5 billion.

West Germany retained its fifth position with exports valued at Dh 860 million. But there was a drop of 22 percent in value which reduced its share of the market from 7.7 percent to 4.4 percent.

From the sixth position onwards there have been some drastic alterations. Singapore, which in 1979 occupied this eighth position, has jumped over Italy and France to take the sixth place. Imports from Singapore which in 1979 were valued at Dh 539 million rose by Dh 304 million, increasing its share of the market from 3.2 percent to 4.3 percent.

Italy, on the other hand, occupied number six position in 1979. It fell to number nine with a drop of Dh 75 million. France however retained its position of number seven through an increase in real terms valued at Dh 253 million. This increase also helped increase its market share from 3.4 percent to 4.2 percent in 1980.

The most spectacluar change was brought about by South Korea which jumped from the 14th position it had been occupying for the last 2 years to number eight in 1980.

This was due to a 63.9 percent increase in the value of its trade which touched Dh 584 million in 1980. In this leap, South Korean trade has beaten two industrialized countries--Italy and the Netherlands--and four developing countries--China, India, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The third Far Eastern country to have improved its position was Thailand. Thai trade with Dubai last year touched Dh 330 million compared to Dh 193 million in 1979. This accounted for the shift in the positions of three other countries between number 16 and number 19. These alterations wre however contributed by two other factors--substantial increases also in the trade of Australia and Switzerland coupled with a decline in Pakistan's trade which had come to number 16 in 1979.

Australia increased its trade by Dh 177 million to reach a figure of Dh 382 million which contributed to its shift from the 17th postition to the 15th, in the 1980 listing. Switzerland on the other hand shifted from number 18 to 17 by an increase of Dh 61 million. Pakistani exports dropped from Dh 206 million to Dh 189 million contributing to its slide to the bottom of the list. Thailand in turn took the number 16 position.

AL-KHALIJ ON U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN GULF

GF220636 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 20 Mar 81 p 1

[Editorial: "The U.S. Campaign To Frighten the Gulf Aims To Horrify the Arab Citizens"]

[Excerpts] The U.S.-Western campaign to terrify the Gulf region is still continuing. It has not come to a halt.

It seems that this campaign is continuing with even greater intensity and viciousness that escalate daily. At times, the campaign is led by Reagan. At other times, it is led by Thatcher or the U.S. Congress. They are attempting to cast doubt on the ability of the Gulf people to foil the plans to deploy the Rapid Deployment Force in the region. The U.S. campaign is not aimed at the Gulf states alone. It plans to terrify Arab citizens in the region and--by using deceptive means and elusive methods - to make them equate their situation with that of a fish out of water. The United States wants them to believe that the Soviets want to dominate their land, usurp their resources and let them die like a fish out of water. They are trying to convince Arab citizens that they will remain alive and active in the presence of a direct of indirect U.S. force in the region. They are made to believe that they will be happy with U.S. forces in their land in order to protect them from an anticipated Soviet invasion.

The truth is that--clearly and franky--the U.S. claim is false, untrue and a mere lie, because the Americans and their allies know well that the "facilities" in the known states are not intended to protect the Gulf against the Soviets. They are intended to undermine the people of the Gulf and to prevent them from defending their land and sovereignty against foreign invasion. The people of the Gulf have not said the United States is not foreign. Instead, they have stressed that no matter where a foreigner comes from or what color his skin is, he is treated as a foreigner.

The Arab people in the region know that the U.S. persistence, manifested in this horrible psychological campaign against Gulf citizens, in part aims to engage Arab citizens in their regional questions, while Washington and its allies continue to provide Israel with arms and aid to use in attacking the Palestinians and Lebanese and to threaten the unity and sovereignty of Lebanon. Thus, Israel is participating in the U.S. conspiracy to isolate another Arab country in the second stage of settlement following the achievements of the Camp David agreements.

This is the vicious psychological campaign that the United States is directing against Arab citizens in the Gulf, and these are some of its results, as anticipated by the United States, which may succeed in recruiting someone else in addition to As-Sadat--as evidence indicates. However, not even the greatest mind in the United States can guarantee the continued presence of U.S. forces in the Gulf. The Gulf states have set an example that can still be seen.

However, colonialists never learn. They have to be forced to leave places where the citizens have rejected them.

BRIEFS

NEW IRAQI AMBASSADOR--Shaykh Saqr ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the UAE Supreme Council and ruler of Ra's al-Khaymah, received the new Iraqi ambassador to the UAE, Sa'd 'Abd al-Majid al-Faysal, in his office in Ma'murah today. Khalid ibn Saqr al-Qasimi, Ra's al-Khaymah heir apparent and deputy ruler, attended the meeting. [Text] [Dubayy Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Mar 81 GF]

'ALI MAKES STATEMENT, ADDRESSES PRESS IN DENMARK

Radio Statement

NC262154 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has stated that Egypt had preferred UN participation in the international force in Sinai, but that the Soviet Union used its veto power to prevent it.

In a statement to our correspondent in Denmark, he said that the formation of a multinational force is a U.S. commitment and that he submitted this idea to the Scandinavian states for consideration. He described this issue as difficult because it has to go through constitutional channels. This matter, he added, will be discussed during the U.S. secretary of state's visit to Cairo.

'Ali also said that the autonomy talks are deadlocked because of the obstacles created by Israel. He pointed out that it is impossible to establish strategic cooperation between Egypt and Israel so long as the Middle East problem remains unsolved.

He said that Egypt welcomes the Soviet Union's call for an international conference on the Middle East, provided it does not infringe on Camp David and provided it produces positive results.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali reaffirmed Egypt's condemnation of Libya's intervention in Chad, which constitutes a threat to neighboring states.

Press Conference

NC262244 Cairo MENA in English 2230 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Copenhagen, 26 Mar (MENA)--Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali underlined here today that Israel had not taken any measures to build up confidence that would encourage the Palestinians to participate in the coming autonomy negotiations. Israel in the past months had been taking steps resulting in the obstruction of the autonomy negotiations whether in connection with Jerusalem, the settlements which it was still building in the West Bank and Gaza or taking inhuman actions against Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories, 'Ali told pressmen here today.

At a press conference he gave here today, the foreign minister said that Egypt was currently negotiating for full autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, adding that Egypt was not deciding for the Palestinians their future though.

'Ali who was replying to a question about the stage he viewed suitable for the Palestinians to participate in the autonomy negotiations, pointed out that the stage of self-determination and the resolution of the problem from all its aspects in keeping with UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the Camp David accords would come three years after the implementation of the autonomy itself.

He reiterated the need for mutual recognition between a provisional Palestinian state and Israel, adding that unless Israel changed its policies and started to build up confidence, Palestinians would not be encouraged to participate in the coming stage of negotiations.

About the formation of multinational force in the Sinai, the foreign minister said that although he did not raise the issue with Foreign Minister Kjeld Olesen, the Danish minister touched lightly on the issue. He added, however, that Israel would complete its withdrawal from the Sinai in April next year, which would give ample time for countries to decide about contribution to the force.

Asked whether that issue would be raised during the forthcoming visit by American State Secretary Alexander Haig to Egypt early next month, 'Ali said that negotiations were already underway between Egypt and the United States, adding that within the next few days U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Michael Sterner would visit Egypt for this purpose.

The Egyptian foreign minister emphasised that Egypt could live without having an international force to preserve peace in the Sinai as it is serious in its wish to have a permanent peace. The multinational force was to be formed, however, due to the sensitivity of the security issue to Israel, 'Ali said when he was asked about reasons for forming the force. He pointed out that Egypt would rather have a United Nations force to preserve peace in the Sinai, but the Soviet Union's threat to veto it in the Security Council rendered the multinational force as an alternative. [sentence as received]

Asked about the current tension in the mideast region, 'Ali pointed out that the peace process should continue and the Palestinian issue resolved in order to achieve stability in the region. The Egyptian foreign minister called in this connection, for a rereading of the Camp David accords.

About a possible Egypt-Israeli strategy to counter dangers jeopardizing the region, 'Ali emphasized that all dangers would come to an end when the Palestinian question was resolved, and only then cooperation could be found to face any foreign interventions.

Concerning the Libyan intervention in Chad, the Egyptian foreign minister drew attention to the fact that Libya, which is a country with a population of two million, had on its soil 2,500 foreign soldiers and more than 600 aircraft equipped with long range missiles, posed as a danger for its neighbours. He cited as an example the Libyan military base set up eighty kilometres from the Sudanese borders.

In answer to another question, 'Ali said that bringing about stability in the Middle East would be one of the subjects discussed with the American secretary of state when he would visit Egypt.

About facilities given to the United States, 'Ali reiterated that Egypt would give facilities and no bases, on account of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and in keeping with the Arab League Charter which Egypt still recognised. Giving facilities to the United States would help it support any Arab country that would be a target of foreign danger in the future, he added. Elaborating, 'Ali pointed out that facilities would mean that American troops would be visiting Egyptian military bases from which they could proceed to any hot spot, adding that the facility was limited to a certain period and for a specific objective.

At the conclusion of his press conference, 'Ali expressed hope that Israel would follow Egypt's suit in signing the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, thus rendering the Middle East region a nuclear demilitarised zone.

The foreign minister is scheduled tonight to host a dinner in honour of the Danish foreign minister. 'Ali's visit to Finland is due to start tomorrow within the context of his current tour of north European countries.

DANISH MINISTER ADDRESSES EGYPTIAN NEWSMEN

NC262059 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Copenhagen, 26 Mar (MENA)--Danish Foreign Minister Kjeld Olesen has stated that his country would welcome the establishment of a PLO information office in Copenhagen should PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat wish and request the opening of such an office. He said that such a position emanates from the laws and traditions of Denmark.

The Danish minister was speaking during a meeting today with the Egyptian information delegation currently accompanying Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali on his official visit to Denmark.

Asked about his country's views on how to maintain security and defend the Middle East, the Danish foreign minister said: Denmark recognizes that the best way to defend and stabilize the area lies in a peaceful, comprehensive solution of the Middle East problem, and this comprehensive solution could lead to stability in the area and prevent foreign intervention. But such a comprehensive solution cannot be reached without solving the Palestinian problem.

The Danish foreign minister described the talks he held with Kamal Hasan 'Ali yesterday as extremely important. He pointed out that Denmark is interested in the Middle East because what happens there affects the world, particularly the countries of northern Europe. He pointed out that out of this belief, Denmark has been very active during the European and other debates dealing with the Middle East situation.

The Danish foreign minister praised the positive Egyptian position on the European initiative and President as-Sadat's address before the European Parliament in Luxembourg.

The Danish foreign minister denounced Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's position, saying that the situation can be determined in Israel following the parliamentary elections there. It is hoped, he said, that the next Israeli Government will be more flexible and understanding. He said that during his previous visit to Israel he took the opportunity to point out to Israeli officials that Denmark does not accept Israel's position on Jerusalem or the establishment of settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The Danish foreign minister expressed the belief that if Shim'on Peres wins the elections, he will be more flexible, especially with regard to the creation of a better atmosphere of confidence among the Palestinians that could assist in the achievement of progress. The Danish foreign minister said that he believes the creation of confidence among the Palestinians is a basic element, and that the next Israeli Government must pay attention to this. He said that his country believes, as stated in the Venice declaration, in the right to self-determination and the need for Palestinian participation in the negotiations. He said that Israel must take the first step toward confidence building.

In reply to a question on Jerusalem, the Danish foreign minister said that UN Security Council Resolution No 242 speaks about total withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, including the West Bank, and Arab Jerusalem is part of the West Bank.

Asked whether his country will participate in the multinational peacekeeping force in the Sinai, the Danish foreign minister said that Kamal Hasan 'Ali did not make any official request about this, but he himself raised the issue with him. He said: I gave him neither a positive nor a negative answer.

NUCLEAR COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH FRANCE

NC271121 Cairo MENA in English 1111 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] Paris, 27 Mar (MENA)--Egypt and France signed here at noon today the final agreement for cooperation between them in the field of using nuclear energy for generating electricity for the first time in Egypt. The technical executive protocol for this agreement was also signed.

Egyptian Minister of Electricity Mahir Abaza signed the agreement while the French industry minister signed it for his country.

Under the agreement France will give Egypt two electricity generating stations by means of the nuclear energy, each with a capacity of a billion killowatt-hour. France, according to the agreement, will supply the stations with the necessary nuclear fuel for a period not less than 30 years. The agreement also envisaged means of organising the exchange of scientific and technical information between the two countries in the nuclear fields.

Following the signing of the agreement the Egyptian minister told MENA that the agreement and the protocol signed today, come within the framework of the agreement signed between the Egyptian and French foreign ministers during the recent visit of President as-Sadat to France. The minister further said that costs of each of the two stations amount to one billion dollars adding that these two stations come within the context of the Egyptian programme to set up eight stations for generating electricity by nuclear energy, till the year 2000.

He added that Egypt will earmark $20 billion of its oil revenues as of this year and until the year 2000, to finance the programme which will provide Egypt with 40 percent of its electricity needs until the advent of the 21st century. He further added that economic studies proved that using the nuclear stations in generating electricity was the idealist means and preferable to using stations which use coal and "mazout" (heavy oil).

AS-SADAT SENDS WALDHEIM MESSAGE ON HANDICAPPED

NC262138 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] United Nations, 26 Mar (MENA)--Mrs Jihan as-Sadat today met with UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim in his office at the United Nations. The meeting was attended by Egypt's chief UN delegate, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, and Health Minister Dr Mamduh Jabr, who is a member of the official delegation accompanying Mrs as-Sadat on her U.S. visit. Mrs Jihan as-Sadat delivered to Dr Waldheim a special message from President Anwar as-Sadat on the occasion of the international year of the handicapped. The following is the text of the message:

Mr Secretary General of the United Nations, when the world declared 1981 as the year of the handicapped it was crowning the world's awareness of the tragedy of handicapped people everywhere and of the need to merge this group of people in all walks of life, not out of pity but in accordance with the simplest rules of social justice.

We in Egypt believe that the responsibility of letting the handicapped participate and share in the various functions of life is above all a national responsibility, but this does not in any way negate the responsibility of the international community in this connection.

The divine religious, moral principles and the Egyptian people's sense of belonging to the family of mankind in this world all dictate that we should make special efforts vis-a-vis the international year of the handicapped.

The momentum that has been generated in this year of the handicapped must continue very strongly in the years to come. The tragedy of the handicapped is not a 1-year tragedy. It is a chronic one. It causes severe pain and puts heavy psychological burdens on the afflicted and all his relatives, friends and neighbors, as well as the larger family of his homeland.

Egypt has done much in this connection, especially since the glorious October war. We here commend the aid and assistance we have received from the international community to ease the sufferings of our handicapped brothers and sisters.

It is society's duty to provide these people with the means to live a dignified life with full appreciation and respect. As much as we can, we should give the disabled the natural privilege of having priority of entitlement to such opportunities in life as housing, transportation and medical care.

As we celebrate the year of the handicapped, we reserve our strongest feelings for the innocent angels who were born into this world with a physical disability in movement, speech, hearing, eyesight, or with a mental disability.

According to statistics on the handicapped, there are 146 million handicapped children in the world, including 18 million in Africa. These are alarming figures, making it incumbent upon us to exert every every effort and to participate in the world's endeavors to provide protection for our handicapped children, especially since the rate of handicapped people in the developing countries is 80 percent of the total number of the world's handicapped. This, regrettably, is a very high rate and is increasing year after year because of malnutrition, disease and insufficient care.

The world community is one indivisible family and on its shoulders falls the responsibility of human, social and economic progress, which can only be achieved by upholding the dignity and humanity of the members of this family. This is why the problem of the handicapped is considered one of the biggest problems facing the international community collectively and individually. It is the responsibility of every individual and group in this community to shoulder the responsibility of fulfilling the rights of the handicapped to live and to participate in various activities.

In Egypt we believe that we can achieve this if we unite our efforts for love and peace.

BRIEFS

NEW PUBLICATION--President Anwar as-Sadat, chairman of the National Democratic Party, has approved a plan submitted by the MAY national publishing establishment for the publication of a weekly religious paper. President as-Sadat has decided to call it AL-LIWA' AL-ISLAMI [the ISLAMIC STANDARD]. It is expected to be published within the coming few months and will be edited by leading Islamic thinkers. [Cairo MAY Arabic 16 Mar 81 p 1 LD]

HAMMADI 'REGRETS' LACK OF SOVIET ARMS SUPPORT

GF261912 Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi has said Iraq blesses Saudi Arabia's efforts to develop and modernize the Saudi Army. He has said that any weapons for any Arab country are weapons for all Arabs. In an interview published in today's edition of AR-RIYADH, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi reaffirmed Iraq's support for the Gulf Cooperation Council. He said Iraq supports and blesses this step.

Referring to the Iraqi-Iranian war, he asserted that Iraq's position at all levels is now better than when the war began. He said the Iraqi Army's morale is very high. He pointed out that Iraq's quest for peace and for an end to tne war with Iran does not mean that Iraq is in a weak position.

Referring to Iraqi-Soviet relations, the Iraqi foreign minister said: In our war with Iran we have not received any Soviet military support. He said he regrets this stand by the Soviet Union.

Asnwering a question on the likelihood of the resumption of Iraqi-U.S. relations, Hammadi said: At present, we do not intend to resume relations with Washington. However, we do not believe that relations will remain severed forever. There is currently no reason to restore these relations.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 287

JN261639 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA)--During their activities yesterday evening and today, the Iraqi Armed Forces killed 31 Iranians and destroyed 4 infantry positions, 7 guns and 3 observation posts. The following is the text of Communique No 287 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following are the results of our armed forces' activities yesterday evening and today:

I. Known enemy losses:
A. Three were killed and one gun was destroyed in the Gilan-e Gharb area.
B. Four were killed and two vehicles and one gun were destroyed opposite our units' positions in Sayf Sa'd.
C. Three were killed and one tank, two vehicles and two guns were destroyed in the Dezful area.
D. A tube launcher and a stockpile of hardware were destroyed in the Shush area.
E. Four were killed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.
F. One vehicle and one observation post were destoyed in the Ahvaz area.
G. Our units pounded enemy personnel and positions in the Abadan area with artillery and mortars, inflicting the following losses on him: 17 were killed and 4 infantry positions, 4 vehicles--two of which were carrying personnel--3 guns, an excavator, 2 observation posts and 3 stockpiles of hardware were destroyed.

This, total known enemy losses amount to 31 dead, 4 infantry positions, 1 tank, 9 vehicles, 7 guns of various calibers, 1 excavator, 3 observation posts, 1 tube launcher and 4 stockpiles of hardware.

II. Our losses:
A. In personnel: 13 martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One personnel carrier and one excavator were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 March 1981

SYRIAN 'TERRORISTS' REPORTEDLY ARRIVE IN EUROPE

JN261146 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Paris, 26 Mar (INA)--Press reports here today reveal the arrival of a group of armed Syrian terrorists in several European capitals to liquidate and assassinate several figures opposed to the Syrian regime. The magazine AL-WATAN AL-ARABI reports that 20 Syrian intelligence elements have spread out in the British, French and FRG capitals to carry out acts of terrorism. It adds that the arrival of this group coincides with the secret arrival in London of Maj Muhammed Khayr Salih, the official in charge of implementation of operations abroad in the Syrian intelligence service.

The magazine adds that the sum of $10 million has been transferred to a secret account in a Syrian bank branch in Europe to finance the liquidation operations. The magazine points out that a Syrian diplomat called Michel Kassuhah, who is closely associated with intelligence, has recently arrived in Paris entrusted with tasks unrelated to diplomacy.

It will be recalled that the wife of 'Isam al-'Attar, who is in the Syrian opposition, was killed in the FRG last week by unidentified gunmen.

TRANSPORT MINISTER RETURNS FROM BUCHAREST 26 MAR

JN270800 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 Mar (INA)--Sa'dun Ghaydan, Revolution Command Council member, deputy prime minister and minister of transport and communications, returned here last night following a 4-day visit to Bucharest.

PRESIDENT'S ENVOY TO MAURITANIA RETURNS 27 MAR

JN270747 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 Mar (INA)--Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member, deputy prime minister and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to Mauritanian President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, returned here this morning following a 2-day visit to Mauritania.

CLANDESTINE STATION REPORTS NEW ANTIREGIME RADIO

JN251621 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Surani Kurdish 1550 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] Our sister radio station, Voice of the Iraqi People [Izgay Dange Gali 'Iraqa], has started its daily test transmission. It is heard at 1900 [1600 GMT] on the 41 meterband shortwave. It transmits music and Kurdish and Arabic national songs. We hope that the new station will play an effective role in the awakening of the Iraqi people and in the struggle against the bourgeois dictatorial regime which is oppressing the Iraqi Arabs and Kurds and other Iraqi minorities. We send our warmest greetings to our sister station, Voice of the Iraqi People.

BRIEFS

IRAQI-ITALIAN AGREEMENT--Tahir Tawfiq, Revolution Command Council member and minister of industry and minerals, signed an agreement today with an Italian company to install four 35-megawatt generators that cost 15 million dinars. [Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Mar 81 GF]

KING HUSAYN TO ASK MOSCOW TO SHIP ARMS TO IRAQ

LD271217 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 28 Mar-3 Apr 81 p 6

["Special" report for AL-MAJALLAH: "Well-Informed Arab Sources: King Husayn Asks Moscow To Send Arms to Iraq"]

[Excerpt] New York--Well-informed Arab diplomatic sources have informed AL-MAJALLAH that King Husayn will raise with the Soviet officials during his forthcoming visit to Moscow the question of arms shipment to Iraq. The sources said that the Jordanian monarch will ask the Soviet leaders to send arms, military hardware and spare parts to Iraq and to rescind the decision to "freeze" arms shipments to Iraq taken after the outbreak of the war with Iran.

The sources said that if the Soviets refuse to do so on the pretext that they are adopting a "neutral" stand in the Iraq-Iran war, King Husayn could buy Soviet arms and military equipment for Jordan and then transfer them to Iraq if necessary. The sources said that this question has been the subject of contacts and discussions between Jordan and Iraq and between Jordan and other countries.

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE MEETS IN AMMAN

25 Mar Meeting

JN252133 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] The joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee met in Amman today. The committee discussed appropriate measures to bolster the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland. The committee also reviewed its agenda and followed up the decisions of the joint committee.

The Jordanian side was headed by Hasan Ibrahim, minister of occupied lands affairs. The Jordanian side is made up of Interior Ministers Sulayman 'Arar, minister of transport 'Ali as-Suhaymat and Shawkat Mahmud, under secretary of the Occupied Homeland Affairs Ministry. The Palestinian side, headed by PLO Executive Committee member Hamid Abu Sittah, is made up of PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad, Fatah Central Committee members Khalil al-Wazir and Hani al-Hasan and PLO representative in Amman 'Abd ar-Razzaq al-Yahya.

Budget Approval

JN261923 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Excerpt] The Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Committee for Bolstering the Steadfastness of the Kinfolk in the Occupied Territories approved in its meeting in Amman today the draft budget for bolstering steadfastness for this year. The economic and development sectors were given special importance in the allocations of the budget. In its evening session the committee approved the bolstering of the industrial sector.

CROWN PRINCE HASAN RETURNS FROM UK 25 MAR

JN252125 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn was present to welcome His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Her Highness Princess Tharwat when they returned to Amman this evening at the end of a private visit to the United Kingdom.

AL-WAZZAN ON SITUATION IN BA'LABAKK, BEIRUT

NC261948 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] On leaving Mansur palace following the postponement of the Chamber of Deputies session owing to the lack of a quorum, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said today:

[Begin recording] [Al-Wazzan] The security situation today is better than yesterday, thanks to the contacts that were held with the internal security forces officials and the Arab Deterrent Forces command. As I was informed today, ADF units have entered the town of Ba'labakk and are now in the process of restoring order and removing armed elements.

As for other areas contacts are underway to improve the security situation and achieve further progress in this direction to secure Lebanon's interest and stability in all areas.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, the situation in the capital, however, seems tense [words indistinct] in Sodeco and other areas. Is there any treatment for this situation?

[Al-Wazzan] The treatment exists and has been continuing since the situation became tense in the area. However, not all the matters are in our hands as officials. We are continuously treating matters with the parties concerned and we hope we will be successful. [end recording]

ADF ISSUES STATEMENT ON BA'LABAKK 27 MAR

NC262110 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Mar 81

[26 March Arab Deterrent Forces statement]

[Text] At 1600 today in coordination with the administrative authority and the internal security forces, the ADF completed the basic measures and preparations aimed at ending the state of affairs that has prevailed in the city of Ba'labakk for the past 2 days. The ADF forces have taken up fixed positions in all the areas that have been the scene of armed clashes in the city. They have also set up fixed barricades on the approaches to these areas to prevent the reappearance of armed men.

Furthermore, the responsible military command held successive meetings this afternoon. The district officer of the area and all influential persons of the parties and clans in the city attended these meetings, during which a number of decisions were made to restore normalcy in the city as from tomorrow morning.

All the parties have been asked to close down their offices in the city and to keep only one office for every party, with the proviso that this office will have no military character. The ADF have been ordered to use force to close any unlicensed office. All have responded to these measures.

This evening the members of the military committee assigned with tackling the situation in the city of Ba'labakk made a walking tour of the city to ascertain for themselves that these measures have been implemented.

AMAL, BA'THIST ELEMENTS CLASH IN BEIRUT

NC262114 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Clashes resumed this evening in the (Al-Musharrafiyah) area in Beirut's southern suburbs between Amal members and pro-Iraqi Ba'thists. Both sides used heavy weapons and missiles. The clashes were still continuing when this report was prepared. No reports on losses are yet available.

VOICE OF HOPE CARRIES HADDAD COMMENTARY 26 MAR

NC261414 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Major Haddad has commented on six current topics as follows:

1. We thank Israeli Prime Minister Mr Menahem Begin for his statement yesterday in which he re.ewed his country's support for the Christians in Lebanon in general and for the Christians in the south in particular, since this support will help liberate Lebanon from the destructive Syrian occupation and ensure Lebanon's existence.

2. Thank God, who proved to the international investigatory committee that the army of free Lebanon has no connection with the destruction of the house of At-Tiri. This result reveals General Callaghan's bad intentions, for he had prematurely accused our army. We hope that in the future General Callaghan will adhere to logic and neutrality.

3. Yesterday, General Callaghan stated that he intends to make the Lebanese Army enter free Lebanon, no matter the sacrifices. Therefore, we advise him to be realistic and prudent. If he is looking forward to bloodshed, let him return to Belfast in order to practice his hobby there. Perhaps he will quench his thirst with Irish blood there. However, if he is concerned about Lebanon, then let him use his influence to bring about the Lebanese Army's victory in Beirut first and foremost so that the Lebanese Army can take the place of the Syrian occupiers and their terrorist pals and only then can this army come and receive our welcome.

4. Karami has attacked Minister Michel Iddih because the latter was bold to ask: How can the [Lebanese] Army be nationalistic and accepted in the south and rejected in other areas? The effendi called on the army to attack and occupy free Lebanon. Therefore, we say to Karami that the last person who has the right to talk about the army is the effendi. He does not even have the right to utter the word 'army' because the Lebanese have not yet forgotten that the person who brought calamities to Lebanon and fragmented the army is Rashid Karami himself. If he wants to test the army, let him test it in Tripoli.

5. Yesterday before noon, while Beirut was burning and the schools were being shelled in Ba'labakk and while the inhabitants were being subjected to random destructive shelling, His Excellency President Sarkis was studying, with some of his aides, the issue of sending the army to the south--as if what was happening in Beirut and Ba'labakk meant nothing to him and as if the army of free Lebanon was the one that was shelling Al-Ashrafiyah and pounding the city of Ba'labakk. To such a president was said: Enough contempt for the people's lives and disregard for the country's fate. If you do not know how to extricate your country and protect your people, then step down. We are certain that the Lebanese people will take care of themselves and rescue their country.

6. Former President Sulayman Franjiyah astonished me when he called, during his press conference the day before yesterday, to render the army victorious in the capital before dispatching it to the south. He then called for allotting half of this army's budget to support the people in the south. He also called on President Sarkis to resign. These utterances are correct. I hope the outside world would hear them so that it would comprehend the realities of the situation in Lebanon. I also hope that every honest soldier will understand them too and that he will abandon the army of conspiracies and defeatism so as to join the army of nationalism and dignity, the army of free Lebanon, in order to carry out his national obligations in the best possible manner.

AL-KASM RECEIVES USSR MACHINE BUILDING MINISTER

JN261350 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Damascus--Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm received Soviet Machine Building Minister Bakhirev and his delegation at 1300 today. The meeting was attended by Maj Gen Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the army and the armed forces and minister of defense.

Bakhirev conveyed to Dr al-Kasm greetings from Nikolay Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

Talks centered on the comprehensive development achieved in the firm relations of cooperation between Syria and the USSR in the political, economic and military fields and the role of this cooperation in strengthening Arab struggle against imperialism and Zionism and their plans aimed at subjugating the Arab nation and liquidating the Palestinian issue. This struggle is also supported by all the socialist forces and by justice- and peace-loving people in the world.

The prime minister was briefed on the results of the talks conducted by the Soviet minister with Syrian officials. He expressed his satisfaction with these results. He stressed Syria's determination to deepen and strengthen means of cooperation with the friendly USSR in order to support the struggle of all the people fighting for their freedom and independence, to confront the Zionist and imperialist plans in this region and to achieve the goals of the Arab masses' struggle and liberation march.

Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm asked Bakhirev to convey his greetings to Nikolay Tikhonov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

VOICE OF EGYPT SAYS TWO ISRAELIS KILLED IN CAIRO

JN260657 Damascus Voice of Arab Egypt in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] An organization calling itself Egypt of Arabism [Misr al-'Urubah] has claimed responsibility for the murder of two Israelis in Cairo. The organization has pledged to carry out other operations, which will be in accordance with its general goals, until right is regained, Egypt restores its true radiance and regains its vanguard pan-Arab role and the Palestinian national soil is liberated.

A statement distributed in Beirut--the organization's headquarters--says: Due to our faith in the justice of our cause and in loyalty to our martyrs' blood, which was shed in the defense of this nation's dignity and honor, and to achieve its goals: liberating the individual and territory; establishing justice, socialism and freedom over every inch of our soil; striking at all agents and traitors; fighting Zionist-U.S. presence over the territory of Arab Egypt--'Abd an-Nasir's Egypt--and restoring Egypt's vanguard pan-Arab role; one of our special units has accomplished one of its missions by killing Shamir Rabin, director of the Israeli Galilee Tours Company and another Israeli as they left the Holiday Inn, near Cairo's pyramids, at 2335 on 20 March 1981.

TZIPORI SATISFIED WITH U.S. MEETINGS, ATTITUDES

TA261236 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Remarks by Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Tzipori to correspondent Connie Lon in Washington on 26 March--recorded]

[Text] We had good talks. We came to know those people. We are informed whatever we were expected to be informed upon. I think that things are going to be much better than they used to be till now. I am not speaking now about assistance or equipment, just the mood of the talks has taken a much better turn than it used to be in the past. I think that all those announcements that the new administration or the president announced during the election campaign and after it--it seems as if they are going to be true. I am satisfied from those meetings and from the attitude of everyone that I met from the new administration.

BEGIN SAYS IDF MUST BE STRENGTHENED SOON

TA261255 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin stated today that in the wake of the considerable flow of combat materiel into the Arab states, Israel's means of warfare will also have to be strengthened in the near future. He called on the United States not to fear the strengthening of Israel, despite the anticipated negative reactions by the Arab states. The prime minister was addressing members of the U.S. National Defense College who are visiting Israel. He spoke in Jerusalem.

He again rejected the European initiative in the Middle East, saying it undermined the Camp David accords. Israel, he said, respects the peace agreement with Egypt, which enjoys full U.S. support; we also rely on the Egyptian people--most of whom want peace with us--despite the negative utterances we hear from time to time.

OFFICIALS COMMENT ON PERES' MEETINGS WITH ARABS

Begin Remarks

TA261559 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] The prime minister said that the meetings Shim'on Peres has held with Arab leaders overseas contradict normal procedures. Prime Minister Menahem Begin stated this this morning upon emerging from a meeting with President Navon. This is the first time that the prime minister has publicly reacted to MK Peres' meetings in Morocco. The president and the prime minister met to discuss what was described as a state matter, not further specified. Corrrespondent 'Oz Frenkel reports on the prime minister's remarks upon emerging from the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Begin] Foreign policy belongs with the government. When we were in the opposition we did not behave like this, we did not meet or talk with Arab representatives--this issue belongs to the government.

[Frenkel] I do not think, the prime minister said, that the meetings of the opposition representative with Arab rulers are compatible with normal procedures. If the meetings did take place, the prime minister added, Shim'on Peres probably raised proposals incompatible with the government's positions.

Regarding the possibility raised by Peres last night in the Moqed television program about Israeli cooperation with Jordan and Saudi Arabia, Begin said that things were not clear.

[Begin] One time we hear about the Jordanian option but King Husayn has said that he does not want to hear about it unless we hand Jerusalem over to him. On another occasion we hear about the Saudi option whereas the Saudis--from their country came the call for a jihad. So, the fact that the head of the opposition wants to connect everybody to Israel--this is not yet clear to me. However, he said so and this is his prerogative.

[Frenkel] The president and the prime minister had a face-to-face talk which lasted for about 1 hour. At the end of the meeting the president said that, in addition to what was described as a state matter they had also discussed Israeli domestic and foreign issues. The president, as well as the prime minister, refused to elaborate on the nature of the issues discussed at the meeting. [end recording]

Shamir Remarks

TA261644 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir today ruled out the Saudi option raised by MK Peres. We have a lot of unpublished information attesting to the strong Saudi hostility toward Israel--Shamir said at a meeting of insurance companies in Tel Aviv. Correspondent Rafi Reshef reports on the remarks made by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] There are many unknown and unpublished facts which prove and express the strong opposition and the deep hostility that Saudi Arabia harbors toward us. This finds its expression in many levels. We do not want to publish these facts because they would be of no avail. I will not do so for the sake of arguing, for the sake of adding another element to the ongoing argument with someone who speaks about a possible agreement with Saudi Arabia today.

[Reshef] On the occasion of the second anniversary of the peace treaty, Shamir said: The peace is a fragile bud which has to be protected from bad winds threatening to nip it. Shamir spoke about the need for U.S. participation in the peace process.

[Shamir] Even today a tangible U.S. participation is required to foster, construct and promote peace--not because we cannot do without the United States but because peace requires it.

[Reshef] Shamir expressed his satisfaction with the new U.S. administration's policy. Shamir quoted the unambiguous remarks of the secretary of state: Autonomy rather than sovereignty was given at Camp David. This is the first time, Shamir said, that we have heard such clear-cut statements from the United States.

Shamir was asked his opinion about Shim'on Peres' latest meetings. He replied: Foreign policy should only be conducted by the Israeli Government.

[Shamir] Everybody realizes--we are all intelligent and wise--if there is any benefit inherent in political talks with Arab leaders then they should be kept secret and confidential. Whoever conducts such talks on the eve of elections has no intention to keep them secret. Therefore, these talks will bear no fruit but only damage. [end recording]

Senior Moroccan

TA261152 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Mar 81 pp 1, 15

[Text] "We shall be compelled to draw extreme conclusions after what has happened," a senior Moroccan source told MA'ARIV yesterday in commenting on reports in Israel regarding the secret visit of MK Shim'on Peres to Morocco. This same source declined to go into detail but it was obvious from his remarks that the policy of tolerance exercised by the Moroccan Government, which made it possible for Israelis or friends of Israel to visit Morocco, will now be frozen.

While Morocco has never officially admitted that top-ranking Israeli citizens have visited the country, this fact is known in certain circles.

It was in this spirit that the source said: "More than 1 year passed before the first leak came out--from Israeli sources naturally--regarding Dayan's visit. Peres' previous visit to Morocco also became known in a matter of weeks; but what happened this time is absolutely intolerable: the national television network broadcast the report on the same day, only a few hours after Mr Peres was to take off for Paris in the Moroccan king's private plane."

The Moroccans are not interested in who leaked the report, nor do they believe that there was a leak. In their opinion, if the Israeli authorities had so desired, the whole thing would never have been made public, especially since the first report was broadcast by Israeli television, which is a government agency. It is difficult to obtain exact details regarding the talks because Morocco has a long-standing tradition of secrecy. Apparently, Mr Yosi Beilin, who accompanied Mr Peres on his trip, was not present during the main talks. On the Moroccan side at least two senior advisers of the king were present during some of the meetings.

The Moroccans are anxious to play down the importance of the visit and say it was merely an "exchange of views." But this approach could stem from their embarrassment over the extensive publicity the matter has received. They stress the king's statements on the Jerusalem issue--or Al-Quds as they call it--making it appear that the main objective of his statements was to warn Peres not to make light of the supreme importance of this issue from the Arab point of view.

JORDAN'S PRINCE HASAN INTERVIEWED IN LONDON

TA241316 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Mar 81 pp 1, 6

[Interview of Prince Hasan of Jordan by correspondent Yohanan Lahav in London 23 March]

[Text] Jordan does not have a common language with the Israeli Labor Party and Amman makes no distinction between the policy of the Likud and that of the Alignment. Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan made these remarks to me last night in London.

He also told me with whom Jordan was able to speak in Israel: the Peace Now members.

The Jordanian prince, who has been spending the last 2 weeks in London, gave a lecture last night in the meeting hall of parliament as the guest of a body called the "European-Atlantic group." At the end of his lecture about Jordanian-European relations, I asked him the question: "What, in your opnion, is likely to happen in the summer if Shim'on Peres is elected prime minister of Israel?"

The prince, who is short and pleasant-looking, replied in a voice startlingly like that of his brother, King Husayn: "Who understands the position of the Israeli Labor Party? We have no common language with it. Altogether, there are no differences of opinion in Israel between the government and the opposition in anything involving the need to withdraw from the conquered territories, including Jerusalem; and, after all, without such a withdrawal the precondition--without which there is no point whatsoever in holding the talks--will not be fulfilled."

Apart from that, the prince added, "the Labor Party itself has a long tradition of establishing settlements in the conquered territories."

Furthermore, "another of Mr Peres' plans about the implementation of autonomy in Gaza first was only intended for one goal: to solve the demographic problem of Israel itself, not to advance the solution of the Palestinian-Israeli dispute; and this approach is yet another obstacle on the way to peace and makes it even more urgent to find a genuine solution."

When the Jordanian crown prince moved on to speak about Peace Now, on his own initiative, he said: "I was very impressed by the British television appearance of the Israeli representative of Peace Now (he meant 'Amos 'Oz). We have questions we would like to put to this political body in Israel, but not to the government and not to the opposition--to the representatives of Peace Now."

And about the "Jordanian option": "We have no illusions that any such option exists at all. Israel simply wants to bypass the need to speak with the PLO so it speaks about a Jordanian option."

Further on the prince warned that "the time still left to find a political solution is running out," and he accused Israel of "living by its sword...and perhaps, too, by the nuclear bomb in its possession."

Some questions put to him about what Jordan itself can expect from a PLO-Palestinian state and about Jordan's willingness to allocate territory to such a state were rejected by Prince Hasan as "questions you were requested to ask by the Israeli propaganda office on Baker Street."

And the solution: That can be found, in the prince's opinion, in the European initiative, which is the "beginning of the revolution in thinking." And it is Europe's duty to send "this message about new thinking about the Middle East" to the other side of the Atlantic Ocean as well--to the United States.

"When U.S. Secretary of State Haig comes to us, we will be wiser; and perhaps he will also be wiser." In his opinion, the Soviet Union should also be a guarantor for the peace which will, in the end, be achieved in the framework of a comprehensive arrangement in the area.

Prince Hasan's ideas about Israel are shocking: according to him, in the years 1959-1978 2 million Jews left Israel and after that yet another million left. Israel--"that is, the territory you call Israel"--"casts doubts on the need for a Palestinian state if it is to be established in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Is your country capable of surviving?"

IDF SPOKESMAN CRITICIZES CALLAGHAN'S REMARKS

TA261523 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] This afternoon the IDF spokesman expressed amazement at the statement made by UNIFIL commander in southern Lebanon General Callaghan that he would return the whole of southern Lebanon to the Lebanese Army's control. The IDF spokesman said that Callaghan's remarks did not contribute to easing tension in southern Lebanon and contradicted the friendly spirit prevailing in the meeting between Callaghan and the chief of staff 3 days ago.

The IDF spokesman stressed that the IDF would not foresake Haddad and his forces and would continue to support the Christians according to the moral obligation of the Israeli Government. The announcement came in reaction to an interview Callaghan granted to a U.S. reporter which was quoted in the press.

The IDF spokesman added that the Lebanese Army did not display any capability of restoring order in the north of the country at the end of the civil war. In fact, it left control over that area to the Syrian forces and the terrorists.

As opposed to the north, there is relative calm and tranquility in the south of Lebanon. Therefore, if Lebanon wants to restore order it had better start doing so in Beirut. Moving the Lebanese Army to the south would only increase tension.

KNESSET SUBCOMMITTEE TOURS SOUTHERN LEBANON

TA261650 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Our military correspondent, Shmu'el Tal, reported that a subcommittee of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee today toured southern Lebanon. The subcommittee members said they were persuaded that the so-called Lebanese units were in fact Syrian units that had taken positions in five locations along the Christian enclave border. They added that more than 12 tanks--out of more than 60 tanks owned by the terrorists--reached the An-Nebatiyah plateau today. The possibility should not be ruled out that these tanks would strengthen the Lebanese forces that would move to the south of the country.

The subcommittee members said they had found great confusion among the Christians in the enclave in the wake of what the Christian leaders termed as contradictory statements by Israeli personalities regarding the appropriate reaction to the arrival of the Lebanese Army forces within the boundaries of the enclave.

Haddad Comments

TA261819 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Haddad said today that one day he might announce that he is tired of fighting the terrorists and Israeli personalities and he would let Israel be responsible for coping with the Syrian army. Haddad was speaking to members of the subcommittee of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee who toured southern Lebanon today.

BEGIN MEETS WITH GOLAN HEIGHTS REPRESENTATIVES

TA261329 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] The prime minister today told representatives from the Golan Heights that it was political reasons that led to the decision not to support the Golan Heights law. Menahem Begin today received representatives of the settlements' committee, who expressed to him their disappointment that the law had not been passed and requested that the government find a budget for the absorption of 1,000 families on the Golan this year. The prime minister promised them that during the week he would speak with the finance minister and try to find a place in the budget for this. The settlers' representatives told our correspondent, Avraham Ben-Melekh, that they were disappointed at the freeze in recent years on the Golan Heights' development. They said that while the government was investing much money in Samaria, it was neglecting the Golan--and there would always be someone who would take this as an intention to leave the Golan.

IMMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS STILL DECLINING

TA271129 Jeruslaem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] The drop in the exit of Jews from the Soviet Union has continued this month and, at the same time, the rate of dropout between the USSR and Israel increased. During the first 23 days of the month, only 979 Jews left the Soviet Union. Of these, 86 percent dropped out. Our correspondent, Avraham Ben-Melekh, says that this dropout rate is greater than that of last month. The Soviets are now permitting Jews to leave, particularly from areas known to be prone to dropping out. In contrast to this, they are not permitting Jews to leave areas where the attraction to Israel is great.

POLL MEASURES INTEREST IN KNESSET ELECTIONS

TA270911 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Mar 81 p 3

[Excerpt] About one-third of the Israeli public has not yet shown any special interest in the June Knesset elections and has stated that "they do not care" who the ruling party is. Nevertheless, it should be assumed that over 80 percent will ultimately cast their ballots in the elections. These are the conclusions of a nationwide public opinion poll conducted by the Pori Institute at the request of HA'ARETZ.

Some 32 percent of the polled stated that they are not interested at all or that they are "slightly interested" in the June elections. Another 31 percent said they "only cared a little bit" what the ruling party in Israel is. This section comes from a low socio-economic class and includes a large number of people who have not yet made up their minds about their vote in the elections.

Some 83 percent of the adult Israeli population today states that it will vote in June. This figure breaks down into 73 percent who are "very sure" and 11 percent who are "almost sure" that they will vote. An outstanding number of Israeli-born youths is included among those who state that they will not vote.

RAFI RECONSIDERING JOINING DAYAN'S PARTY

TA270848 Jerusalem POST in English 27 Mar 81 p 2

[By political correspondent Sarah Honig]

[Text] Tel Aviv--RAFI yesterday said officially for the first time that it might not join Moshe Dayan in a new list for the coming elections.

A statement issued by the party elections headquarters--whose membership is nearly identical to the party secretariat--said yesterday that RAFI will "strive to create as wide a new centre party as possible, but our entry into a new political venture will not be at any price."

This was a formula suggested by former Finance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz yesterday to make it possible for Mr Zalman Shoval to agree. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Shoval is said to be willing to go with Dayan in any case. Hurvitz and MK Yitzhaq Peretz oppose Dayan's proposed platform planks on autonomy and Jerusalem, as well as his intention to place former Labor MK Mordechay Ben-Porat in the list's second slot and his insistence that RAFI cease to exist as an independent bloc.

KIMCHE DECLINES COMMENT ON 'AFRICAN MISSION'

TA261114 Jerusalem POST in English 26 Mar 81 p 1

[B. Robert Rosenberg]

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director-General David Kimche was in several African countries earlier this week, the Jerusalem POST has learned from reliable government sources. Kimche was not, however, in Nairobi, as reported yesterday in the POST.

Kimche has refused to confirm or deny that he was on a secret Africa mission at the weekend.

Premature publication of plans for a Kenyan parliamentary delegation to visit Israel caused the Kenyans to cancel a visit earlier this year. When asked about this African mission, Kimche said that "certain matters require discretion." Several West African countries including Ghana, Sierra Leone and Senegal, like Kenya, have retained friendly relations with Israel even after cutting off diplomatic ties under Arab pressure in the mid 1970s.

OAU WARNS U.S. OVER AID TO UNITA IN ANGOLA

NC261840 Paris AFP in English 1808 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Addis Ababa, 26 Mar (AFP)--The Organization of African Unity (OAU) today strongly warned the U.S. Government that any interference, direct or indirect, in the internal affairs of Angola would constitute "a grave violation" of the charters of both the OAU and the United Nations.

In its first formal reaction to recent moves by the Reagan administration to lift the congressional ban on aid to anti-government forces in Angola, the OAU said any support to the South African-backed UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) aimed at destabilizing a sovereign OAU member state would lead to "very adverse consequences" for American relations with Africa.

This position had already been communicated in Washington, the OAU said, adding that its resolve to oppose any actions by the U.S. in this regard [words indistinct] "to be underestimated."

The statement said: "If the USA Government chooses to act contrary to the UN declaration on friendly relations and cooperation between states adopted in 1970 by supporting the South African-backed UNITA forces and to provide assistance to it with a view to destabilize Angola or install another government there, then it should expect very adverse consequences to the relations between the United States and African states."

ALGERIA

USSR'S RASHIDOV, DELEGATION DEPART 26 MAR

LD261416 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] The Soviet delegation led by the alternate member of the CPSU Politburo, Mr Rashidov, left Algeria today. The Soviet delegation had a series of talks with Algerian officials regarding the prospects of development of Algerian-Soviet bilateral cooperation.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI INTERVIEWED BY LUXEMBOURG TV

LD261254 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 26 Mar (JANA)--Tripoli, during the past 2 days Luxembourg television has carried the interview which correspondent (Christian Mallard) had with the brother leader.

With regard to the situation in Chad and the possibility of French intervention, the leader explained that fear stems from French intervention and not Libyan intervention. He said Libya only entered Chad on request to end the war, and did actually end it. The Libyan forces will be withdrawn shortly if military and political threats against Chad are removed: However, we fear that Egyptian-Sudanese military concentrations along the eastern borders of Chad and the mobilization once again of Sudanese gangs against Chad could hinder it. The brother leader added that this is obstructing the withdrawal of Libyan forces from Chad and we fear might obstruct it further.

The leader replied to a question about his assessment of the future of the world and the possibility of a confrontation between the two major powers. He said that the future of the world rests on two choices--either total collapse or peace. This means that confrontation is not inevitable and can be avoided. However, now there are causes which warn of danger, the most important of which is the Arab question, where it is feared that the Jews could cause a third world war the way they caused the First and Second World Wars. The blind American support for the Israelis could also lead to a confrontation between the two major powers. Today we are seeing practical steps along this road by the establishment of American military bases in Egypt, Somalia, Oman and Sudan, which means that the American forward confrontation lines have advanced to become parallel with the European front, which ends at Turkey and Greece.

The leader in his interview with Luxembourg television added that the second reason for this danger is the failure to disarm, the continuation of nuclear armament and the building of nuclear medium-range missile bases in central Europe. The French attempts to reestablish a military presence in Africa are bound to contribute to increasing tension in the world once again. The leader stressed that giving Egypt a military role in the region is bound to exacerbate conditions in the region. This in effect means that the line of confrontation has extended from Europe to Africa.

Regarding the role of the Islamic revolutions in the Jamahiriyah and Iran, the brother leader explained that the Islamic world is now being headed by these two revolutions to liberate it from alliances and colonialism, since colonialism has imposed backwardness on the Islamic world through crusade-like motives.

As to the influence of the Jamahiriyah in international politics and the world balance, the brother leader stressed that Libya is a neutral country of the first order and has basic influence on the balance of power in the Mediterranean, the Middle East and the whole world.

FOREIGN LIAISON SECRETARY MEETS ARAB AMBASSADORS

LD261406 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison this morning received the ambassadors of the sister Arab countries in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

During this meeting the brother secretary talked with the Arab ambassadors about the Jamahiriyah's stands vis-a-vis the developments taking place in the Arab arena. He specifically mentioned the dangerous move of the Sudanese regime of restoring its diplomatic relations with the ruling regime in Egypt, which is considered a blatant violation of the resolutions of the Baghdad summit. The brother secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison drew attention to the fact that the exchange of ambassadors between the two regimes in Egypt and Sudan is considered a traitorous step and another operation in an attempt to confirm the capitulationist solutions. He also drew attention to the fact that this step is considered a dangerous precedence and a depature from the Arab and Islamic summits' resolutions.

He explained that the Jamahiriyah submitted the subject of the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and Sudan to the Arab League Council in Tunis. He noted that the council had adopted a middle-of-the-road resolution in face of the traitorous and treacherous behavior.

During this meeting he talked to the Arab ambassadors about the gravity of the situation in southern Lebanon and the repeated Israeli and isolationist attacks it was being subjected to. He urged that a unified Arab stand be taken to defend Lebanon. In this respect he stressed the readiness of the Jamahiriyah to extend the necessary assistance and to help to ensure full protection for the sons of the Lebanese people in the south.

In his talk he dealt with the forthcoming meeting of the Jerusalem committee, which will be chaired by the king of Morocco. He criticized this meeting because of the involvement of Hasan II in suspicious and arranged meetings with the Zionist terrorist Shim'on Peres, a matter which confirms the futility of the meetings of this committee in the shadow of a regime that has links with the enemy of the Arab nation.

NICARAGUAN INTERIOR MINISTER ARRIVES 25 MAR

LD251554 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] Tripoli 25 Mar (JANA)--Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge arrived in Tripoli at noon today for a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi was at the airport to welcome the guest and accompanying delegation. Also at the airport were the secretary of the General People's Congress; the Congress Secretariat assistant secretary; the secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice; the Oil Secretary; officers and heads of some political missions in Libya, and the staff of the Nicaraguan Embassy in the Jamahiriyah.

Jallud Reception

LD262336 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud at noon today received Tomas Borge, member of the National Command of the Sandinist Front and Nicaraguan minister of the interior, in the presence of the secretary general of the People's General Committee for Justice.

SOLDIERS RETURNING FROM CHAD WELCOMED IN BANGHAZI

Popular Celebrations

LD270030 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Yesterday evening Banghazi welcomed in a revolutionary and festive atmosphere our soldiers who had supported freedom in Chad, defeated colonialism and reaction and restored peace and stability to the fraternal Chadian people. The supporters of freedom were welcomed by the popular masses, vanguards of the armed people, including male and female students from schools and institutes, a popular cavalry force, units from various sections of the armed forces and a considerable number of mujahidin.

Veterans decorated the chests of the supporters of freedom, the soldiers of the Great 1 September Revolution, with roses, when they arrived at the Benina airport. A guard of honor was also there to welcome them.

Well-wishers mixed with the returning troops of the Great 1 September Revolution in a huge popular march, during which they chanted slogans reaffirming the popular determination to move forward on the road of the Great 1 September Revolution, defend its principles, hold high our flags everywhere and call for the adoption of the eternal humanitarian theses [of the Green Book]. The popular masses reaffirmed their solidarity with the leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, the champion of freedom and creator of the era of the masses.

Al-Qadhdhafi Address

LD270938 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Banghazi, 27 Mar (JANA)--The popular masses in the city of Banghazi welcomed with roses some of the Libyan military units withdrawn from Chad after taking part in ending the bloody civil war ignited by agents of colonialism and after establishing peace and security in the land of this sister country.

Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Al-Fatah Revolution, said in a speech: Courageous soldiers, today you are returning to the same barracks from which you moved abroad to carry out the second death order which I issued to you after the first death order which I issued to you on the dawn of 1 September 1969.

He pointed out that this is the second time that forces have gone outside their borders, successfully carried out their mission and returned to their country, leaving the land to its people. The first time was when the Egyptian Army under the command of Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir fought alongside the 26 September Revolution and alongside the Yemen-Arab people, backed the republican regime, and defeated the agent reactionary monarchy forever, and then these forces returned to Egypt.

The brother leader stressed that the courageous liberating soldiers, after offering sacred sacrifices, completed a task which the whole of Africa and the major powers failed to perform. He pointed out that France abandoned Chad at its darkest hour because its motivation was colonial and all the African countries together were not moved by the massacre to which the people of Chad were exposed. The brother leader stressed that after the Chad national government under the leadership of Frolinat, the Chad national liberation movement, turned to its neighbor Libya to end the tragedy of the people of Chad, there was no alternative other than to use force.

The brother leader addressed the returning soldiers by saying: All of us must be ready to return to the fight at any time if the enemies once again try to threaten the security of Chad, which has become closely linked with the security of Libya. The brother leader added: You have decided the battle in the interest of the people of Chad and in the interest of peace and freedom in Africa, and you have defeated the reactionaries and their colonial and Zionist masters.

MAURITANIA

BNEIJARA ADDRESSES RALLY ON MOROCCAN "AGGRESSION"

LD262238 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Excerpts] The masses of the capital this evening organized a huge demonstration in which they expressed their strong indignation over the aggression against our country initiated by the Moroccan royalist regime. The masses shouted slogans against Moroccan expansionism and its agent at home and abroad. The citizens renewed their determination to sacrifice and defend national independence and territorial sovereignty. They also expressed their firm support for the national leadership and the courageous armed forces which were able to abort the vile Moroccan plot with the highest level of bravery and patriotism.

After marching through the main streets of the capital, they went to the prime minister's office where Ahmed Ould Bneijara received them, together with members of his Cabinet and his office in addition to many officials, and delivered the following speech:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the almighty, the all compassionate. Dear brothers and sisters: Greeting of Islam and the belief of God, greetings of the homeland and the [word indistinct] struggle. [applause] Oh proud people, this is a great moment in our glorious history full of triumphs and victories. [applause] This is a decisive moment in the march of our homeland and its [word indistinct].

Dear gentlemen and brothers, this is not the first time that our Muslim and peaceable, and at the same time our struggler and militant, people have been subjected to direct aggression by the Moroccan Kingdom. We must remember the Moroccan invasion of our country in 1955, which was an unjust act of aggression. We must remember the barbaric and bloody operations, the killing of innocent women and children at [words indistinct] and Nouakchott, and the terrorist operations organized by Morocco from 1960 to 1964. We must remember that the Moroccan state was the only Arab country which opposed the independence of Mauritania and the only African state which tried to prevent our country from being admitted to the United Nations and the OAU. It has also tried over the years to prevent the Arab and Muslim Mauritanian people from joining the Arab League. [words indistinct] The Kingdom of Morocco denied our existence for 10 years, and had it not been for the total and complete isolation in which it fell at the political, deiplomatic, material and moral levels in Africa and at the Arab and international levels, had it not been for this strangling isolation, the Moroccan Kingdom would have not recognized Mauritania as a Muslim, independent and sovereign state in 1969--10 years after our independence.

The cooperation about which Moroccan officials speak [words indistinct]. We recall that this cooperation [words indistinct] as a price for a war which the Moroccan leaders thought our people waged in the interest of their expansionist objectives through the defunct regime, which had pushed our people and country into that aggressive and illegitimate war and which [words indistinct].

Oh masses, dear brothers, you recall with me and the world remembers that 10 July broke with the slogan [words indistinct]. Dear brothers, our strength stems from the determination of our people and creative masses, our (?vital and unified force), the will of our people, which is unshakable, and their determination to defend our national dignity and unity and to build our eternal state, lofy, free and democratic in the interest of the conspirators and the traitors and the [word indistinct]. [applause]

The 10 July Movement continues to implement its historic program which is the decisive chapter between the era of injustice and oppression and the era of justice, freedom and progress. [applause]

Dear brothers, we have repeatedly stated our policy toward the Western Sahara problem and repeatedly declared our just attitude, which has been adopted by Africa and the whole world. But the [word indistinct] is that the Moroccan leaders have decided to turn our country into a sacrificial lamb for their internal instability and their involvement in the Western Sahara problem and [words indistinct] day after another.

I want to confirm to you anew that as long as one Mauritanian remains alive [applause] this land shall remain a cemetery for any invader and for every aggression. [applause] Finally, [words indistinct] our people are a great people, and we shall win. [end recording]

HAYDALA RECEIVES IRAQI ENVOY, MESSAGE 26 MAR

AB261655 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, head of state and president of the Military Committee for National Salvation, this morning received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The message was brought by a special envoy, Mr Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister.

The audience took place in the presence of Prime Minister Bneijara and the Iraqi ambassador to Nouakchott. After the audience Mr Tariq 'Aziz told a radio Mauritania correspondent that he has conveyed to President Haydala a personal message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. In the message, the Iraqi leader stresses the attachment of the Iraqi Government and people to the relations between Mauritania and Iraq. He also expresses his country's solidarity with Mauritania and his support of Mauritania's independence and stability. He commends our country for the constructive political role which it plays in the Arab world.

Shortly after the audience, Mr Tariq 'Aziz left Nouakchott for home. He was seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Bneijara and cabinet members. It must be recalled that the Iraqi envoy arrived in Nouakchott yesterday afternoon.

INA Report

JN261533 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 26 Mar (INA)--President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy Tariq 'Aziz today conveyed a message to the Mauritanian president from the Iraqi president dealing with Iraqi-Mauritanian relations.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Nouakchott following his meeting with President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, 'Aziz reiterated Iraq's pride in the fraternal relations with Mauritania, its solidarity with Mauritania and its keenness to preserve Mauritania's independence and safety. He added that his talks with the Mauritanian president were characterized by profound understanding and the sincere fraternal spirit. He said that Iraq places all its potentials in the service of its brothers in Mauritania. Appreciating Mauritania's positive role in the Arab area, 'Aziz said that Iraq highly values Mauritania's position and wishes it prosperity and progress. He said that President Haydala has affirmed his country's positive role in its area and in the Arab area in general.

The Iraqi envoy arrived in the Mauritanian capital last night.

FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS SEND MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

French Message

AB261652 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 26 Mar 81

[French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing's message to Mauritanian President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala--received on 26 March]

[Text] The French Government expresses its profound sympathy with the Mauritanian Government and people in the difficult situation which Mauritania has just experienced. France is particularly attached to Mauritania's independence and sovereignty. It stands by Mauritania in this situation without any ulterior motive, in a spirit of respect, esteem and friendship. It has faith in the future of an independent, stable and (?prosperous) Mauritania.

PRC Message

AB270902 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] The Chinese Government has addressed the following message to the Mauritanian Government and people: The Chinese Government congratulates the Mauritanian Government and people for having successfully foiled the criminal attempt to overthrow the Mauritanian Government.

As in the past, the Chinese Government firmly supports the Military Committee for National Salvation and the government and people in their just struggle to safeguard national independence and state sovereignty and appreciates the Mauritanian Government's policy of neutrality and nonalignment.

The Chinese Government sincerely hopes that Mauritania will (?continue with) a system of development which perfectly corresponds with the Mauritanian people's aspirations as well as with the interests of Africa and the Maghreb region.

MOROCCO

MAURITANIAN OPPOSITION GROUP'S STATEMENT REPORTED

LD270046 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] The Alliance for Democratic Mauritania today delivered a statement to AFP in which it declared its determination to work to liberate Mauritania by all available means from the grip of Libya and Algeria and their allies.

The Mauritanian opposition movement in exile accused the Nouakchott rulers of cold-bloodedly killing those involved in the 16 March coup, just as they had assassinated former Prime Minister Lt Col Ahmed Ould Boucif and his companions by blowing up their plane and the international commandoes by blowing up their car.

The statement of the Alliance for Democratic Mauritania added that the more than 800 people who have been arrested in Mauritania since 16 March have been severely tortured during interrogations conducted under the direct supervision of Polisario mercenaries and officers from Libya and Algeria.

The Alliance for Democratic Mauritania affirmed that Polisario units and Algerian security forces are in control of Nouakchott, that the Polisario occupies the northern part of the country and that the latter's forces are concentrated at 60 [words indistinct] km from the border with Algeria, and Bir Moghrein, (Dhar and Teigin).

Mauritania is now embroiled in a civil war. Nobody knows how long it will last and what repercussions it will have on the neighboring countries.

The Alliance for Democratic Mauritania called on all international organizations and countries to recognize it as the true representative of the Maruitanian people and to help it by all possible means in its struggle for national liberation.

JOINT STATEMENT ON VISIT OF SENEGAL'S DIOUF

JD262322 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Mar 81

["Text" of joint Moroccan-Senegalese statement issued on 26 March at end of visit to Morocco by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf]

[Excerpts] At the invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II, his excellency the president of the Senegalese republic and Mrs Abdou Diouf paid a state visit to the Moroccan Kingdom from 23 to 26 March, 1981.

During the visit, His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency President Abdou Diouf held a number of meetings. The two heads of states stressed the ideal, distinguished character of Moroccan-Senegalese relations, as epitomized in the joint will of the two heads of state to ensure diplomatic and consular representation by one country or the other when the need arises.

During his stay in Morocco the Senegalese head of state visited Marrakech and Fes, and particularly the religious and historical sites in these two cities, which reflect the great spiritual and cultural wealth with which the Moroccan Kingdom abounds.

Following the meetings held in camera by the two heads of state, a plenary working session was held on Tuesday, 24 March, 1981 under the joint chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency President Abdou Diouf. The session was attended by the delegations of the two countries.

On the Senegalese side, the session was attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mostapha Niasse; Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Djibril Sene; and Minister of Commerce Falilou Kane. On the Moroccan side, the session was attended by Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Matti Bouabid; Minister of State in Charge of Tourism Moulay Ahmed Alaoui; Minister of National Education and Cadre Training Azzedine Laraki; Minister of Commerce, Maritime Industry and Sea Fishing Azzedine Guessous; Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Abdelhaq Tazi; Secretary of State for Higher Education and Scientific Research Said Ben el-Bachir; and Moroccan Ambassador to Senegal Ahmed Hammoud.

During all the meetings they held, the two delegations held concentrated discussions on the various aspects of cooperation between their two countries. In this regard, they expressed their satisfaction at the excellent character of that cooperation which sets an example for the relations among the African countries.

The Senegalese president praised the positive role constantly played by the Moroccan Kingdom, under the wise guidance of His Majesty King Hassan II, in Africa and throughout the world, particularly with regard to bolstering Arab-African cooperation.

For his part, King Hassan II praised the profound Moroccan-Senegalese friendship which has been developed over the centuries.

The two heads of state affirmed their joint adherence to the democratic ideals which stem from the humanistic traditions of both their peoples.

Furthermore, the two delegations studied with utmost care a number of important political and economic international issues and expressed satisfaction at the identity of their views on the issues discussed.

With regard to bilateral cooperation between them, the two delegations reviewed the results of the ninth session of the Moroccan-Senegalese Ministerial Committee, formed under the agreement of friendship and solidarity concluded between the Moroccan Kingdom and the Republic of Senegal. The ninth session was held in Morocco from 19 to 26 March, 1981. In this regard, the two delegations expressed their satisfaction at the positive development of cooperation between them in the economic and cultural fields.

With regard to economic relations between the Republic of Senegal and the Moroccan Kingdom, the two delegations reiterated the need for the reactivation of trade exchange between their two countries in terms of diversity and scope. A protocol was thus negotiated and signed and later attached to the trade agreement concluded on 13 February, 1963, between the two countries, following the conclusion of the ninth session of the Joint Moroccan-Senegalese Committee.

With regard to the two countries' joint concern with the repercussions of the drought and the march of the desert on their development, the two heads of state decided to coordinate their efforts both in Morocco and the Senegal with a view to combating these dangers particularly through the exchange of expertise and the carrying out agricultural research.

With regard to cultural cooperation, the two delegations recorded with satisfaction the positive results achieved in this field, particularly in the fields of education and cadre training. A protocol for cooperation in the educational and cultural fields and an agreement for cooperation in matters affecting civil service for the years 1981 and 1982 were signed in this regard during the ninth session of the Joint Moroccan-Senegalese Committee.

With regard to the regional situation, the two heads of state reaffirmed the two countries' attachment to the causes of peace, security and harmony within the framework of respect for the various countries' independence and territorial integrity.

In this respect, King Hassan II lauded the constant support the Republic of Senegal accords to the Moroccan Kingdom in its defense of its rights. His majesty also praised the far-sightedness which the Senegalese leaders continue to depict with regard to the true interests of the region's countries.

With regard to international problems, the two heads of state discussed the situation in Africa in general and with regard to points of tension in the continent in particular--points whose presence constitutes an impediment to the development of the African countries and their stability. The two heads of states reiterated their conviction that the Arrican countries should solve their conflicts by means of dialogues so that each country would ensure full respect for the principles of the OAU charter, particularly those pertaining to noninterference in other countries' internal affairs and territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The two heads of state expressed their profound concern over the situation in southern Africa and Chad. With regard to southern Africa, the two delegations expressed their deep disappointment at the continued racist practices in that area. They strongly denounced the policy of apartheid pursued by the Government of South Africa and its unlawful occupation of Namibia. The two delegations consider it imperative that the international society should work to put an end to apartheid.

On Namibia, the two delegations expressed their hope that the problem would be settled quickly on the basis of the settlement proposed by the United Nations. They reiterated their constant solidarity with and effective support for the fraternal Namibian people.

The two delegations denounced foreign interference in the internal affairs of Chad, an interference in conflict with the efforts exerted by the OAU for the establishment of peace and stability in Chad. The two delegations affirmed that the precise application of the Lagos agreements and the results of the Lome meeting were the only conditions for solving the problems facing the fraternal Chadian country.

With regard to the Middle East, the two heads of state expressed their concern over the situation there, particularly as this situation will continue to pose a threat to world peace and security. They affirmed the need to find a just, comprehensive, quick and lasting solution which would take into consideration the rights of the Palestinian people, and which would include the following: Israel's evacuation from all the occupied territories, including Jerusalem; full recognition of the established rights of the Palestinian people--the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; and the establishment of an independent Palestinian sovereign state.

With regard to Jerusalem, the two heads of state reiterated their strong denunciation of all the measures taken by Israel with a view to stripping the holy city of all its Arab and Islamic character and to changing its system. President Abdou Diquf warmly praised the constant efforts exerted by King Hassan II, in his capacity as chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, for the liberation of this holy city. He once more congratulated his majesty on the unanimous decision taken by the third Islamic Conference summit in At-Ta'if, which provided for the reelection of his majesty as chairman of this committee.

On studying the international situation, the two heads of state expressed their deep concern over the escalation of tension in the world. In this regard, they discussed the Iranian-Iraqi conflict with deep concern. They expressed their regret at the continuation of the conflict which creates a serious tension in the region threatening peace. They expressed their hope that the two countries--Iraq and Iran--would reach a peaceful solution of their conflict on the lines proposed by the Islamic Conference Organization.

They also expressed their regret at foreign intervention in Afghanistan, that sovereign Muslim and nonaligned country. They stressed their rejection of the nature of this interference, which is contrary to the independence of the Afghan people. They stressed the need to find a quick political solution based on the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and leaving the Afghan people the freedom to determine their own fate.

With regard to the difficult problem of the constant deterioration in the exchanges between the industrial countries and the developing countries, His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency President Abdou Diquf reiterated the need for solidarity among all peoples and the reorganization of international trade. Furthermore, they stressed the urgent nature of the problem of establishing a new international economic system on the basis of fairness and justice, aimed at the elimination of differences and the enabling of the developing countries to have access to advanced technology so that a balanced development will take place in all parts of the world.

President Abdou Diquf expressed his profound gratitude to King Hassan II for the great welcome and fraternal hospitality and great attention shown toward him and Mrs Abdou Diquf and the Senegalese delegation. He also expressed his conviction that his visit to Morocco will make an effective contribution toward the bolstering of fraternal relations between the two countries.

The two delegations expressed their satisfaction at the climate of understanding and friendship that prevailed over the talks.

The Senegalese president invited King Hassan II to pay an official visit to Senegal. His majesty gladly accepted the invitation to pay this visit, the date of which will be fixed at some later date.

26 Mar Departure

LD261448 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Excerpts] The official visit of Senegalese President Abdou Diouf to our country has ended. He left Marrakech this morning. He was accompanied by his wife and members of his delegation. In a statement to the press at the airport, he stressed the total success of his visit to Morocco.

With regard to his talks with his majesty the king, the Senegalese president said that these talks were fruitful and showed the vitality of Senegalese-Moroccan cooperation and the identity of views on all matters raised--bilateral relations and the analysis of the African and the international situation. The president was seen off by the prime minister and justice minister, Maati Bouabid, and members of the government; the Moroccan mission of honor which accompanied the Senegalese president during his visit; the advisors of his majesty the king, Ahmed Bensouda and Muhammad Awwad; the chairman of the Supreme Council and the king's attorney at the council; the dean of the diplomatic corps and Qatari Ambassador Abdullah Yusuf al-Jidah; the new Moroccan ambassador to Senegal, Muhammad Mukwar; a number of senior officers of the high command of the Royal Armed Forces; and others.

SUDAN

MINISTER ADDRESSES LEGISLATORS ON FOREIGN POLICY

JN261017 Khartoum SUNA in English 0955 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Kartoum, 26 Mar (SUNA)--Sudan has advocated the establishing of balanced relations with the two super powers, announced Muhammad Mirghani, minister of state for foreign affairs and assistant to the president for coordination.

Sudan is keen to its ties with the Soviet Union on equal footing with that established with the other power irrespective of its opposition of Soviet presence in Afghanistan he said. Sudan has established good relations with the Eastern bloc and most of its countries expressed readiness to offer aid to Sudan, he added, in the statement he delivered before the house yesterday on Sudan's foreign policy.

Touching on Arab solidarity he said the basis of Sudan policy aim at meetings our national commitments towards the Arab cause and maintaining at the same time our special ties with Egypt. (Sudan's support to the Palestinian cause is unquestionable), he reaffirmed. [sentence as received]

Referring to Sudan's rejection of foreign interference particularly in African affaires, he detailed Sudan's endeavours to restore peace and stability in Chad.

Our concerns on the current developments in Chad are not confine to their impact on our stability but because the Libyan invasion is in contradiction with all our beliefs in the sovereignty.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO CLAIMS SUCCESS IN GUELTA ZEMMUR ATTACK

LD252308 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] The Polisario Front has issued a statement reviewing the activity of the Saharan fighters against the Moroccan forces of invasion stationed at Guelta Zemmur. After mentioning the military victories of the Popular Saharan Liberation Army in the battles of (Ra's al-Khanfarah), Bu Craa and El-Hagunia, the statement said that this new victory inflicted significant material and human losses on the forces of Hassan II, who is getting more embroiled in his denial of the existence of the Saharan people. The new attack taught the Moroccan forces of occupation a lesson, both inside SDAR territory and in southern Morocco. And in the face of these defeats and failures of the policy of occupation pursued by the Moroccan regime, this regime poured its wrath and rancor on other countries and peoples in the area with the purpose of creating confusion, instability in world public opinion circles and diverting the attention of the Moroccan people from the acts this regime is perpetrating against the struggling Saharan people.

Report of Occupation

NC270938 Paris AFP in English 0857 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] Algiers, 27 Mar (AFP)--The Polisario Front guerrillas said today that they had occupied the town of Guelta Zemmur, in the Western Sahara, after two days of fighting with Moroccan troops.

Guelta Zemmur is in the south of the territory, annexed by Morocco but disputed by the Algerian-backed Polisario.

The Polisario statement here said that on Wednesday, the Moroccan garrison in the town "fled toward Bu Craa (phosphate-mining town to the north), abandoning a large quantity of war materiel and hundreds of bodies."

Several dozen Moroccans were taken prisoner, the guerrilla statement said.

Guelta Zemmur is about 50 kms (30 miles) from the Sahara-Mauritania border, but the Mauritanian press agency has denied Moroccan allegations that the attack on the town was launched from Bir Moghrin in Mauritania. These claims, the Mauritanian agency said, were "intended to cover the cowardly Moroccan aggression against Mauritania"--a reference to the March 16 coup attempt in Nouakchott that the Mauritanian Government claims was backed by Morocco. Rabat denies this.

ETHIOPIA

ERITREAN GROUP APPEALS FOR RELIEF ASSISTANCE

LD271342 Kuwait KUNA in English 1102 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Mar (KUNA)--An Eritrean group fighting for independence of Eritrea from Ethiopia Friday appealed for world help to save one million refugees facing starvation.

The Eritrean Liberation Front office here said in a statement that the worsening rain season in the Horn of Africa had in particular added to the sufferings of one million Eritrean refugees as well as the villagers in far areas.

The statement said that the Eritrean peasants were facing starvation because of the cruel weather conditions and drought. It added that these peasants could not cultivate their land because of the present war with Ethiopia and lack of seeds. The ELF appealed to all friendly states and world organizations to render humanitarian assistance including food and medicine to help the starving people of Eritrea.

KENYA

PRESIDENT MOI RECEIVES EGYPT'S BUTRUS GHALI

NC262120 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today handed a message to Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi from President Anwar as-Sadat. During his meetings with Dr Butrus Ghali, the Kenyan president expressed his full and unconditional support for President Anwar as-Sadat's efforts to establish peace in the Middle East and Africa and his full appreciation of President as-Sadat's policy in all related spheres.

During the 1-hour meeting between the Kenyan president and Dr Butrus Ghali, the two sides exchanged views on various issues. Following the meeting, the Kenyan president said that he intends to take the opportunity of the African summit conference to be held in Nairobi in June to discuss with President as-Sadat all subjects of mutual interest on the African and international levels.

The Kenyan president announced his acceptance of an invitation to visit Cairo in the near future.

Dr Butrus Ghali is due to visit Mogadishu tonight to deliver a message to Somali President Siad Barre from President as-Sadat within the course of Dr Ghali's current tour of a number of fraternal African states.

SOMALIA

EGYPT'S BUTRUS GHALI ARRIVES IN MOGADISHU

LD262242 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 26 Mar 81 EA

[Excerpts] The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, and a delegation he is heading arrived at Mogadishu airport this afternoon on an official visit to the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR].

Dr Butrus Ghali told reporters from the Ministry of Information and National Guidance that he would deliver a message from the Egyptian president, Mr Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, to the president of the SDR, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre.

Asked about the refugees in the SDR, the Egyptian minister said the people of Egypt were well aware of the enormous burden this matter was causing to the government and people of Somalia and that his country would declare its stand on this issue at the forthcoming Geneva conference where the whole question of international refugees will be discussed, in particular the refugees inside Somalia.

UGANDA

MUWANGA, DP LEADER DISCUSS SECURITY ISSUES

LD271220 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 27 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Yesterday, the vice president and minister of defense, His Excellency Mr Paulo Muwanga, met the leader of the opposition, Mr Paul Ssemogerere. The two leaders discussed matters pertaining to the insecurity in the country.

Honorable Muwanga recounted to the leader of the opposition factors leading to the present situation. Mr Muwanga expressed his disappointment with the apparent lack of genuine and positive response to the philosophy of reconciliation by the large number of members of Parliament supporting the opposition. He reiterated the values of the spirit of reconciliation as expounded by the president, Dr Apollo Milton Obote.

Honorable Muwanga pointed out that most of the incidents causing insecurity in the country have occurred in areas where the Democratic Party [DP] has the demonstrably larger support but, he added, DP members in those areas had never volunteered any useful information to the security forces.

He stressed that the opposition should not take the spirit of reconciliation for granted, adding that security was a matter for all citizens. The opposition must also work hard to translate this philosophy into reality so that the entire people of Uganda would start enjoying the fruits of liberation, in particular, peace and prosperity.

If the opposition choose to condone, (?abet) or associate themselves with incidents causing insecurity, the government will not hesitate to deal with them firmly and decisively.

On his part, Mr Ssemogerere welcomed the opportunity offered by the vice president for the leaders of the opposition to be taken into confidence and he hoped that this will continue to be the practice. Mr Ssemogerere said that the opposition and the members of the DP will be ready to cooperate with the government if taken into confidence at every stage of development. In the past, he said, members of his party had not been able to come forward to assist in alleviating the current security situation because they felt the government was hostile to them.

Finally, the two leaders agreed that the opposition chief whip, Mr John (Magezi), who was present at the meeting, would continue to liaise with government authority to facilitate good understanding between the government and the opposition on such matters. The meeting was also attended by the minister of state for defense, Mr Peter Otai.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONDEMNS 24 MAR EVENTS IN KAMPALA

LD261920 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1730 GMT 26 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The Democratic Party, DP, has dissociated itself from the subversive activities which took place in Kampala on Tuesday. In a statement in Parliament today, the leader of the opposition, Mr Paul Ssemogerere, supported the statements on security by the vice president and minister of defense, Mr Paulo Muwanga.

We, the DP, Mr Ssemogerere told Parliament, dissociate ourselves from acts of vandalism and sabotage. He said his party was determined to help [word indistinct] the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the country for the present and future generations.

BURUNDI

BELGIAN DEVELOPMENT AID MINISTER VISITS BUJUMBURA

LD261257 Brussels LE SOIR in French 20 Mar 81 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In Burundi"]

[Text] Development Cooperation Minister Mr Daniel Coens is at present in Bujumbura on a 4-day official visit to Burundi. He will meet with, among others, President Col Jean-Baptiste Bagaza and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mr Edouard Nzambimana, before visiting projects benefiting from Belgian cooperation.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

OPPOSITION LEADERS PLAN FOR LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS

AB261835 Paris AFP in French 1436 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Bangui, 26 Mar (AFP)--Leaders of the four opposition parties to Mr David Dacko in the CAR met on Thursday in Bangui to map out a common political strategy which will lead to drawing up a single list for the forthcoming legislative elections, sources close to the parties in Bangui disclosed.

According to the constitution, legislative elections should take place at least 3 months after the presidential elections, which took place last week.

Violent clashes between security forces and young demonstrators, after the announcement of Mr David Dacko's victory on Friday left 4 people dead and about 100 wounded, some of them seriously enough to require amputations. It was learned from reliable medical sources. Since those incidents, it has been relatively calm in Bangui, where the curfew beginning at 2000 local time (1900 GMT) is still in effect.

Gen Sylvestre Sana, minister of national defense, met opposition leaders and told them to advise their supporters to be calm, it was learned from reliable sources. The parties, in fact, have already sent a request to that effect.

The meeting of the four unsuccessful opponents of Mr Dacko--Mr Ange Patasse, (Central African People's Liberation Movement); Mr Francois Pehoua (Independent); Abel Goumba (Ubangi Progressive Front); and Henri Maidou (Republican Progress Party)--has revived political life in the CAR.

This first summit meeting of the opposition should also afford them the opportunity to define their position with regard to the ruling party.

The four leaders have asked the Supreme Court to declare the presidential elections null and void. However, all indications are that they have no illusions concerning the outcome of their request. That is why they are in a hurry to prepare for the elections, which they believe will be decisive, because in these elections they hope to win a majority of the seats (45 it is said).

Four leaders of the Central African People's Liberation Front, including its vice president, Mr Pamadaou (principal of the Martyrs High School), were summoned by the gendarmerie on Wednesday afternoon for questioning and were later released, it was learned from reliable sources on Thursday morning.

Observers remarked on another incident causing pessimism involving the ceremonies commemorating the anniversary of the death of the founder of the republic, Barthelemy Boganda, who died on 29 March 1959. Opposition parties invited to a seminar devoted to the thoughts of the founder of the republic boycotted the ceremonies.

CHAD

200 LIBYAN TROOPS WITHDRAWN FROM NDJAMENA

AB270735 Paris AFP in English 0729 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] Ndjamena, 27 Mar (AFP)--About 200 Libyan soldiers stationed at Ndjamena Airport left the Chadian capital for home yesterday as Chad President Goukouni Oueddei and Libyan officers looked on. Mr. Goukouni said he hoped the departure would dampen foreign criticism of the Libyan presence in his country. He would not give a date for the withdrawal of the remaining Libyan troops--estimates of their number range 7,000 to 10,000--but said they would stay until security and peace in Chad could be guaranteed.

Libyan soldiers helped Mr. Goukouni's forces drive rebel Defense Minister Hissein Habre and his men out of Ndjamena last December.

A reliable source here said the departure of the Libyans yesterday was part of a move to demilitarize the capital: Several hundred armed men have been seen leaving Ndjamena in recent days, most of them apparently being reassigned to posts near Chad's borders.

The same source said that Libyan troops are expected soon to withdraw from Abeche, in eastern Chad.

ZAIRE

MOBUTU URGES STRICT MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZED BUDGET

AB261350 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Excerpts] There must be an end to improvisations and to certain things that are considered irreversible. We must now make room for organization and strict management. This watchword was launched this morning by the founding chairman of the MPR and president of the republic, Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, during the solemn opening of the second session of the MPR Central Committee at the People's Palace. The head of state first of all made some observations on Zaire's economic recovery, which will make it possible to make 1981 a year of social welfare. Social welfare, said the president of the republic, necessarily depends on the economy and cannot in any way be achieved in a situation of disorder. The president deplored this disorder in the budgetary field. There will no longer be any question of tolerating budgetary disorder in any sector of the nation's life, he stated. The head of state has already taken important measures in this connection. These measures are aimed first of all at increasing our revenues and secondly at reducing public expenditures.

The head of state also defined the new role of the regional governors, which is to ensure unified command and control over all regional activities. However Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko warned the regional governors against the risks of abuse of power. In this connection, there will be regular controls at the level of all the territorial authorities from the regional governors down to the community heads.

BENIN

EHUZU DENIES NIGERIAN ALLEGATIONS OF INCURSION

AB270710 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Editorial from the newspaper EHUZU--date not specified]

[Text] Since January 1981, and especially during the period from 13 to 23 March 1981, Nigerian newspapers in Lagos, the federal capital of Nigeria, our sister neighboring republic, have been publishing a number of news stories that are malicious reports aimed essentially at creating suspicion and distrust between our two countries and with the vile purpose of creating a climate of serious tension that would harm the friendship, brotherhood and mutual cooperation existing between our two nations and peoples.

As a matter of fact, the 13 March issue of the NATIONAL CONCORD reports that six cars, including four with Beninese license plates, were discovered inside Nigerian territory at the border with Benin. They were allegedly abandoned by their occupants, who were dressed in military uniform. The same paper states in its 18 March issue that the People's Republic of Benin has claimed ownership of the cars, which reportedly belong to the Beninese People's Army. According to the paper, the claim was made by one Mr (Lasintou Ahmed), the Beninese commander of the (Lamiseko) base in the People's Republic of Benin.

The 19 March issue of the DAILY TIMES carries a story in which it states that Beninese troops have occupied Nigerian villages. For its part, the 19 March issue of the NIGERIAN TRIBUNE states that Kerekou's troops are invading Nigeria. These last two papers write in substance that our troops have progressed into Sokoto state, especially at [names indistinct]. The 20 March issue of the NIGERIAN HERALD carries a statement issued by the federal Ministry of Defense according to which the federal government is investigating the allegations that Beninese nationals have made an incursion into the Illo district of Sokoto state.

The 20 March issue of the DAILY TIMES calls for action against Benin, citing the statement of a member of the great Nigeria People's Party, who describes the situation as serious and delicate. The party member urges the federal government to set up a commission with full powers to station troops along the Benin-Nigeria border in order to face an impending invasion.

Lastly, the 23 March issue of the DAILY SKETCH publishes a statement made by the Oyo State Government. In the statement, chief Obaseki states that Nigeria cannot give way before any power and that any power and that any country provoking it would be dealt with most vigorously.

The People's Republic of Benin is an independent, sovereign state like the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Our two countries are both deeply attached to safeguarding their independence, their sovereignty and their territorial integrity. Given that fact, it is most unlikely that Benin would embark on a destablization operation in any state, and this is particularly true in regard to Nigeria, which is an African sister republic with which we share bonds of history, culture and traditional good neighbor relations.

These accusations against Benin and the Beninese People's Army in the articles cited are merely baseless inventions. As a matter of fact, the Beninese people are aware that since the launching of the revolution in our country on 26 October 1972, some news agencies--manipulated by international imperialism for the purpose of discrediting our democratic revolution--have attempted to jeopardize the cooperation between our country and all other countries, especially our brotherly African countries.

In this regard, the harmful and baseless allegations made by hostile papers cannot disrupt the firm determination of the People's Republic of Benin to maintain ties of friendship, brotherhood and good neighbor relations with all states of the subregion. Needless to recall, the People's Republic of Benin will cooperate with all states on the basis of the principles set forth in the 5 November 1972 program and on the basis of noninterference in the internal affairs of states, mutual respect, sovereignty, equality and territorial integrity.

The People's Republic of Benin, which suffered an imperialist aggression on Sunday, 16 January 1977, and which, since the launching of the revolutionary process of 26 October 1972, has addressed itself to the building of a society where every Beninese will find life pleasant, will not allow itself to be diverted from that task of national construction by baseless accusations of interference in the affairs of brotherly countries.

It goes without saying that the People's Republic of Benin will continue to demonstrate its permanent readiness to maintain active cooperation with all countries that respect its sovereignty and its national independence. Militant comrades of the People's Republic of Benin, let us remain vigilant. Ready for the revolution, the struggle continues!

GHANA

IVORIAN EMBASSY STAFF IN ACCRA LEAVES FOR HOME

AB270840 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] The entire staff of the Ivory Coast Embassy in Accra has flown to Abidjan by a special plane provided by the Togo Government. According to a GHANA NEWS AGENCY report, the charge d'affaires of the embassy, Mr Charles Koffi, who has been manning the mission in the absence of the ambassador Mr Coffi-Bile, when contacted refused to talk. The ambassador has been in the Ivory Coast since last week for consultations.

GUINEA

SEKOU TOURE INTERVIEWED ON ISLAMIC WORLD'S FUTURE

LD261425 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 23 Mar 81 pp 12-13

[Interview given to Ayman Habib by Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure--place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Your Excellency, how do you view the future of the Islamic world in the light of the intensifying Iraqi-Iranian conflicts?

[Answer] In viewing the problems facing the Islamic world, it is obviously wrong to indulge in divisive acts such as describing one state as progressive and another as conservative and nonprogressive. The criterion which must be used for gauging any action or work is the extent of sincere work being done for the sake of Islam. Let us, for example, look at the issue from the Iraqi and Iranian standpoints. The two countries are fraternal Muslim states which are now at war with each other. Each country is bragging about the number of men of the other country its army has killed. This is shameful and regrettable from the standpoint of Islam. The Iraqi-Iranian war is a tragedy for the Muslim world because it weakens it and dissipates its forces.

Neither Iraq nor Iran will emerge triumphant from this war, even if we assume that one of them scores victory in the battlefield. The only beneficiaries of this war are Islam's enemies.

Islam's enemies are now feeling happy and elated as they see the Islamic world split, with one part against the other. The Iraqis and the Iranians are now destroying each other's economic foundations. It is going to take both countries 5, 10 or even 15 years to repair the damage and destruction caused by the war. Who is the loser? Both Iraq and Iran are the losers.

[Question] Observers believe that Iraq and Iran have closed the door to the mediation committee by rejecting the Islamic proposals. Do you think that the committee will be able to continue its efforts in the light of the two state's response. How can the shedding of Muslim blood be halted?

[Answer] I do not agree with you that Iraq and Iran have closed the doors. As far as I am concerned, the doors are still open, because we have not passed judgment but presented proposals which, if implemented, we believe would establish peace between the two countries. We have decided that negotiations should take place to resolve the radical disputes in a final manner. Both disputing sides want the committee to resolve these problems, which must be settled through negotiations between the two sides. Each side wanted us to pass judgment in this respect, but we refused to turn ourselves into a tribunal. We are not a tribunal. We firmly believe that just solutions can be achieved through cease-fire and negotiations.

After receiving our proposals, both Iraq and Iran sent us proposals which each of them regard as "conditions" for reaching a comprehensive agreement. This means that the door has not been closed; it means that the door is still open because each country has asked us to review some of the peripheral problems to which, according to them, no solutions were presented in our proposals. This means that Iraq and Iran have agreed to take the road leading to peace.

Although both countries have set some conditions for accepting the proposals of the Islamic committee for peace, I am fully confident that the committee will achieve a better solution that will be acceptable to both countries when it resumes its contacts with them. The problem will be solved, God willing.

[Question] Your Excellency, how do you view the likelihood of the nonaligned committee's achieving a solution to this problem. Will there be coordination between you and that committee?

[Answer] I would like to point out that Iraq and Iran are two Muslim nations. Should they refuse to have the Muslim world, under the banner of the Koran and Islamic fraternity and solidarity, resolve the conflict between them and should they accept another arbitration, they would weaken Islam. I personally do not believe that either the Iraqi or the Iranian Government will take such a decision, although they are completely free to do so.

[Question] How does Your Excellency view the Arab-African dialogue? Is it true that this dialogue will face obstacles. What effect does the recent Libyan intervention in Chad have on this dialogue?

[Answer] We are sure that the recent Libyan invasion of Chad represents Al-Qadhdhafi alone and has no effect on the Arab-African dialogue, especially if we regard it as un-Islamic and as unilateral action taken by one country which does not affect the march of the group as a whole. The fact is that the Arab-African dialogue is not proceeding as it should. I emphasize, however, that Libya's unilateral stance does not have much effect on this dialogue.

LIBERIA

AMBASSADORS TO UN, GHANA, CAMEROON RECALLED

AB261818 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1755 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Liberia's ambassador to the United Nations, Wilson Tubman, has been recalled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia. No reason for the recall of Ambassador Tubman was given by the Foreign Ministry.

In another development, the Foreign Ministry today announced that Ambassadors Christopher Rocks and J. Jenkins Cooper, assigned to Ghana and Cameroon respectively, have returned to Monrovia following their recall.

NIGERIA

MEDIA COMMENT ON SHAGARI'S UK VISIT, REAGAN POLICY

AB262024 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] In recognition of Nigeria's consistent and strong impact in African and world affairs, it was not unexpected that President Shagari's visit to Britain generated widespread interest. As in the United States last October, this is understandable because of the numerous attractions Nigeria offers to foreign partners in business and in investments. Added to this is the political maturity which Nigeria has demonstrated with the peaceful transition from military to civil rule, and her reentry into the club of the world's leading democracies.

Although most of the topics discussed at talks between President Shehu Shagari and British leaders seemed inconclusive, there were many significant achievements of the visit. First was the understanding by the British Government to have another look at the new fees for commonwealth students in educational institutions in the United Kingdom. Although it is true that Britain has the right to pursue whatever policies she desires, the point that was eloquently emphasized was that the commitment of Britain should not end with her domestic policies. Such policies should be tailored toward fulfilling the basis for her membership of many organizations, especially, as far as Nigeria is concerned, the Commonwealth. It is therefore unwise, as President Shehu Shagari observed, for Britain to pursue an education policy which gives adequate protection to students from EEC countries, to the exclusion of their Commonwealth colleagues. What is therefore desirable is that Britain should now start thinking not only in terms of her domestic policies, but how others see such policies, and to what extent they would affect the interests of her friends.

This is also true of her unrealistic attitude towards the situation in southern Africa. There is ample evidence that Britain has been a collaborator in sustaining the apartheid regime in South Africa. She does not support United Nations sanctions against South Africa, and the armed struggle to achieve independence of Namibia, despite the intransigence of the apartheid regime. Instead, the British authorities have continued to encourage more investments in South Africa and to provide the armor for perpetrating injustice and humiliations on the majority black population in the area.

As if these were not enough, Britain has gone further to grant prospecting rights to two South African companies for her North Sea oil. The British public and their allies will not claim ignorance of this situation. This is because it has been said openly in British business circles that it is better to invest in South Africa than trade with the rest of the continent.

The irony is that those who are expected to learn from the lessons of the past have been trying to falsify history in order to promote their selfish interests. But Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe provide a good case study. They have shown that no matter the odds, the will of the people will triumph in the end.

The question has been asked, many a time, as to what Nigeria will do if Britain refuses to go with her and Africa in dismantling the apartheid regime in South Africa. Although no Nigerian official reaction has been made public, no one should be left in any doubt that Nigeria will take drastic action in support of her African brothers and sisters. From the talks in London, British industrialists and businessmen are expected to explore further areas of negotiations for new British investments in Nigeria. So many factors will be taken into consideration in granting Anglo-Nigerian partnership in such ventures. This is because Nigeria cannot afford to fraternize with any country that pursues policies which are inimical to her interests. Although there is the need to encourage the growth of British investments in Nigeria, at least to reduce the trade deficits, there are other civilized ways of going about it--through the diversification of sources of imports to the country.

The need for Nigeria's trading partners to reorder the direction of their policies was forcefully put forward by the president in one of his speeches during the visit.

What should be clearly understood is that Nigeria's political and economic strength is no longer in question, and she is prepared to use it to her advantage and to promote the interest of Africa and her other friends.

Press Comment

AB271039 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The NATIONAL CONCORD reflects on President Shehu Shagari's visit to the United Kingdom and believes he advanced Nigeria's interest by asking Britain to endorse the application of mandatory economic sanctions on racist South Africa. But the paper sees Britain's unwillingness to impose economic sanctions against the racists as double standard. It therefore thinks the option open to the African nations is to reassess their relations with Britain and intensify armed struggle against the apartheid regime. To succeed in this direction, the CONCORD says, the African nations must relax their dependence on the West for technology and concentrate on building an indigenous industrial base.

Also commenting on the visit, the NIGERIAN STANDARD endorses a statement by the president that any move by the United States to aid rebel movements in the continent would hurt the feelings of Africans. The paper believes the president was reacting to moves by the Reagan administration to repeal a law prohibiting American military aid to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, UNITA, and other rebel groups in Angola. The STANDARD condemns the proposed move and warns the United States of the grievous consequences. The paper further thinks America's experiences in Cuba and Vietnam should have taught her enough lessons.

SHAGARI PRAISES CASTRO IN TALKS WITH CUBAN LEADER

AB271013 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] President Shehu Shagari has commended his Cuban counterpart, Dr Fidel Castro, for promoting peace and cooperation among the nonaligned nations. The president made the remark when the Cuban vice president, Mr Juan Almeida Bosque, called on him in Lagos yesterday. He stated that there were similarities in the socioeconomic and cultural lives of the two countries.

ANGOLA

UNITA LEADER INTERVIEWED ON MILITARY NEEDS

LD261412 Hamburg DPA in German 1320 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Luanda/Hamburg, 26 Mar (DPA)--Angola's opposition leader, Jonas Savimbi, needs "not even as much as $100 million worth" of military aid in order to break the power monopoly of the MPLA government and to drive the (?Cubans) out of Angola. In an interview for the Springer foreign news service, published in today's DIE WELT, Savimbi states that his UNITA guerrillas need, above all, antitank weapons, antiaircraft missiles, field howitzers and armored reconnaissance vehicles. However, his objective was not to capture the large towns but a "political solution."

In the interview, Savimbi stated: "My companies are positioned right at the outskirts of Luanda. The heavily populated areas around Huambo are UNITA territory. The influence of the communist MPLA ends at the edge of the towns and my army is in virtually uncontested control of southern Angola."

MOZAMBIQUE

MACHEL SPEAKS ON INSPECTIONS, 'MILITARY OFFENSIVE'

LD261254 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 26 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Samora Machel, the president of the Frelimo Party and the People's Republic of Mozambique, said in Beira yesterday that government inspections will be made shortly in all provinces within the framework of the political and organizational offensive.

The leader of the Mozambique revolution was addressing a meeting of party and state structures in Sofala as part of his visit to Sofala Province which began yesterday. President Machel also announced the restructuring of Sofala Province in order to allow the functioning of all structures and establish tranquility and peace in the province as a whole.

In this context, Machel also announced that a military offensive will be unleashed to dislodge the armed bands which are active in Sofala and Manica Provinces and call themselves the National Resistance. Speaking on the military offensive, the president said that (?the government war department is aware of the internal enemy's actions) against our country and its existence is supported by the South African racist regime.

Speaking further on the political and organizational offensive at the meeting of provincial party and state structures in Sofala, the supreme leader said that his visit is aimed at evaluating each individual's tasks in the respective sectors of work. Machel also spoke on the state central plan, the value of submitting reports and its implementation in all sectors of the society. Last night, President Machel was a guest of honor at a dinner party given by the Sofala provincial government.

FOREIGN MINISTER IN LISBON FOR 3-DAY VISIT

For reportage on Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano's visit to Lisbon see the Portugal section of the 26 March Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

SOUTH AFRICA

SECURITY FORCES RAID SUSPECTED TERRORIST HIDEOUT

LD270512 Johannesburg International Service in English 0300 GMT 27 Mar 81

[Text] The chief of the South African Security Police, Maj Gen Johan Coetzee, has announced that an unspecified quantity of explosives, cartridges and handgrenades, as well as possible places of suspected terrorists were found in a joint raid by the police and the Defense Force in Soweto last week. A number of people were arrested and 22 drums of arsenic were confiscated. The arsenic was probably stolen from a firm on the Witwatersrand. The planning stages of the raid were surrounded by a cloak of secrecy and very little news leaked out even after it had started.

The district commissioner of police on the Rand Brigadier [name indistinct] said last night that mopping-up operations were still in progress and a final assessment of the results would only be available in a few weeks.

ZAMBIA

PRESIDENT KAUNDA COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH U.S.

LD261244 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Mar 81 CA

[Text] President Kaunda last night said that Zambia is extremely worried by the Reagan administration's approach toward African affairs. Dr Kaunda said this when Commonwealth Secretary General Sir Ramphal Shrida [as heard] called on him at State House. He said the Reagan administration approach toward Africa was not based on facts and warned that this was very dangerous for a big power. He told the commonwealth chief however that Zambia will not prejudge Mr Reagan's attitude toward Africa until it is given a chance to know the feelings of the African Continent.

In reply Mr Ramphal told President Kaunda that the United States played an important role in the independence of Zimbabwe and that he found it unbelievable that there cannot be a fundamental departure too from there. He said the Reagan administration must be helped to find the right way which that country followed when it made a valuable contribution during the independence struggle in Zimbabwe.

Earlier President Kaunda met executive director of the American Committee on Africa, Mr George Hauser, who is currently visiting Zambia. President Kaunda, who called Mr Hauser an old-time friend, said he hoped he will continue putting Africa on the map. Mr Hauser, who leaves today for Zimbabwe, visited Tanzania before coming to Zambia.

ZIMBABWE

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH NORWAY

LD261226 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 26 Mar 81 CA

[Text] Salisbury--Zimbabwe and Norway have signed the first cooperation agreement to be entered into between the two countries. The agreement was signed by the minister of finance, Comrade Nkala, and the deputy director general of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr (Pedersen).

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Salisbury this morning, Comrade Nkala said the agreement envisages an advanced payment of $2.3 million, part of a total grant of 80 million Norwegian kroner, about 7 million Zimbabwean dollars. He said the money, which is payable over 3 years, would be applied to a variety of reconstruction projects. Comrade Nkala noted that primary consideration may be given to water supply.

In reply, Mr (Pedersen) said the Norwegians have followed closely the Zimbabwean people's striving for independence, and he added: It is therefore a privilege for Norway to be invited to take part in the reconstruction of Zimbabwe.

YUGOSLAVIA TO GRANT CREDIT ON 'FAVORABLE' TERMS

LD271020 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 27 Mar 81 CA

[Text] The leader of the Yugoslav delegation to the Zimbabwe Conference on Reconstruction and Development, Comrade Dragasevic, says his country has muct to offer Zimbabwe in the way of rural development, mining, geology and civil engineering technology. He said his country will grant credit on favorable terms to Zimbabwe, depending on the particular projects in which cooperation will be needed. Although he would not say how much money his country will be giving to Zimbabwe, Comrade Dragasevic said it will be substantial. The money to be given will be in addition to the $3 million already pledged. Comrade Dragasevic said his country will continue to cooperate in training programs.

Meanwhile 25 rural extension workers leave for Yugoslavia today. They will be in Yugoslavia for 3 months training in agro-industrial management. The deputy minister of agriculture, Comrade Mombeshora, told the extension workers that the government will expect them to bring new ideas about rural development on their return. He said it will be their responsibility to help uplift rural farming.